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Salt & Light – Is Your Child Ready?

Jonathan Ekeland, Co-Founder of DiscoverChristianSchools.com and Director of Admissions at The Christian Academy (Brookhaven, PA)

www.tca-pa.org

A young lady I know well is a senior at a local public high school. She comes from a pretty solid evangelical Christian home. She grew up in the church starting with Sunday School and participated more recently with their youth group – when time permitted. She's a good student with a 3.4 GPA and SAT scores a little over 1100. I asked her recently about what her Christian worldview looked like. She looked at me funny with her head cocked to one side in confusion. I explained briefly what it was, but again she came up blank. After some prodding she responded with some general statements about Jesus dying for our sins and loving others, but she couldn't really even back them up with Scripture, let alone verbalize anything remotely close to her spiritual understanding of how she fits in this world as a believer. She knows what she wants out of life: college degree, nice job, marriage, kids, etc. but something's missing.

In a few months from now she'll be leaving for a secular college in another state "doing battle" at the dear age of 18. Is she spiritually prepared? Yet she knows the Lord, so isn't she supposed to be salt and light at her college?

From the hundreds of Christian high school students I've known, she's a pretty typical student when it comes to knowing and being able to articulate her Christian worldview. She has good parents, accepted the Lord at a young age, stays out of trouble, and for the most part doesn't have a care in the world. Again, what's missing?

Not all Christian schools are created equal. However, I'm going out on a limb to say that I would hope that most Christian schools or Christian home schools would be able to provide that missing piece. I'm afraid for her. I wish I could be excited, but I'm not. The world is not getting any friendlier to Christians like this young woman. Are we fully preparing our children for this world?

Jonathan Ekeland, one of the co-founders of DiscoverChristianSchools.com, has served as the Director of Admission/Guidance Counselor for The Christian Academy in Brookhaven, PA for over 10 years. Drawing from a wide experience of dealing with students and parents alike, he is highly qualified to serve as the editor of our eConnect newsletter beginning with the March 2007 Issue.

If you have comments, stories or ideas for eConnect, the E-newsletter for DiscoverChristianSchools.com, please contact Jonathan at jekeland@tca-pa.org.

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Values Clarification

William Stevens, Headmaster, Wilmington Christian School (Wilmington, DE)

www.wilmingtonchristian.org

Note from the author:

"Values clarification" was a movement that was neither based on values nor clarification. Promoted by Sidney Simon's seven step process for choosing values, it spawned what we may be more familiar with - situation ethics. It was a teaching that centered upon instruction that was not directive, but merely coached students to make up their own minds when placing value on a particular outcome . . . with no right or wrong answer. "What's right for me may not be right for you". It was how values are clarified for "you" in the situation "in which you find yourself." It was a step toward the post-modern thinking

that is present in our educational system today . . . no real right or wrong, but only as perceived by the individual.

There was a big push on values somewhere back in the early 80's. It was a whole philosophy and curriculum used in public schools designed to teach about values and what constituted them (situation ethics) . . . getting kids to discuss "real life" issues and determine how we should, would, or could respond ("You're in a life boat with three others . . ."). Looking at our society today, I'm forced to ask, "So how'd we do at clarifying things?"

The problem, as I see it, is that we already had our values clarified! Whether through the written law given to Moses, the parables, teachings, and life of Jesus, or the letters from Paul to the young churches, values are clarified in the Word of God. As our statement of faith "states," **"We believe the Bible to be the inspired, authoritative Word of God for faith and practice."** Authoritative means "conclusive" . . . "faith & practice" is living the Christian life. So, by definition, it is God's Word that is the conclusive body of truth for living, learning, and walking this journey that is set before us. It clarifies the value of living, it gives understanding to learning, and makes clear the path to walk. Now having said that, I would clarify further by saying that the "it" is really "He," because we also attest that it is He, Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). So, when the educational establishment sought to bring clarity to values instruction for kids, what was the source of this clarification? I don't think it was Jesus. And it still isn't.

That is what makes the Christian school movement so vital. It was ordained to be a sanctuary of values clarification for children of Christian families. It trains and nurtures young people in a Biblical worldview . . . a perspective on truth, for living, and in the way that kids should go. They don't always go that way, or right away, but it's providing them with a pool of knowledge, a fountain of wisdom, and a stream of understanding from which to draw life. This is why we hold to Psalm 1:3 as a focus verse ~ ". . . *like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season.*" Every person has his/her "season," and we are here to help those bear fruit when that season comes. It's not an indoctrination program, nor a sheltered environment from the "real world." Heaven knows we've had our imperfections, failures, and warts to show! Christian education is a step-by-step process of continuing, becoming convinced of, and remembering from whom we learned them. The "them" are the values that get clarified along the way in the body of knowledge that equips each student for every good work. That's the target for which we are clearly to shoot.

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DCS in the News

www.ByFaithOnline.com

Harold Naylor, a member of Faith PCA in Wilmington Del., works for a Christian school in Pennsylvania, and along with others has developed a web site to connect parents with the Christian schools with a 7,000+ school database that can be searched by zip code. The site also provides a biblical apologetic for why parents should think and pray about placing their children in a Christian school. For more information, go to <http://www.discoverchristianschools.com/>

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Parents Want to Know

Many Of My Friends Say They Want Their Kids To Be Salt And Light In The Public Schools. Shouldn't We Do That?

Many Christian parents share this sentiment. And it's a noble one, too. Every one of us should strive to be salt and light wherever we find ourselves. But we have to be mindful that young children (before high school) are generally not equipped to defend their faith and influence

others. Even with high schoolers, it is the unusually well-grounded student who can impact others for the Kingdom. However, even with the strongest testimony, we would not recommend that "salt and light" be the primary reason for sending your child to a public school.

No matter how well-grounded your children are, it's highly unlikely they can be the kind of salt and light Jesus was talking about. Can fifth graders, or even junior high students, effectively explain the Gospel? And what about high school upperclassmen? Are they, on average, capable of defending their faith to the degree to which they can be genuine salt and light to their non-Christian peers? [Click here to read more . . .](#)

"How much salt and light can untrained, silent Christians be? Must we not rather train our children in Christian schools that they may become salty and brilliant lights to transform a society wandering in darkness?"

Dr. Wayne Grodin

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Welcome, Veritas Christian Academy!

www.VeritasChristianAcademy.com

DiscoverChristianSchools.com would like to extend a warm welcome to one of our newest member schools in Houston, Texas.

Veritas Christian Academy
7000 Ferris Street
Bellaire, TX 77401

Lamia Raad is the Associate Headmaster and you can contact her at (713) 773-9605 or visit their website: www.VeritasChristianAcademy.com

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. . . more than any parent could ever ask for!

Bob and Shelia Kent

As my husband and I were preparing to relocate from the Atlanta area to Bucks County, PA, one of our top priorities was to find a Christian school for our children to attend. We began searching the Internet for the possibilities and started interviewing schools over the phone. We narrowed the potentials to just a few and ended up only meeting with Plumstead Christian. www.plumsteadchristian.org

When talking with the Admissions Director at Plumstead, we felt a warmth and openness that we didn't feel while talking with other schools. We were able to call the principal at the elementary school, where three of our children (soon to be four) would be attending. Again, she was so welcoming and open to answer all of our questions. It was as if we were friends with these two women. Of course, for me, that was all it took. We decided to investigate Plumstead further.

We began checking into the academics, biblical integration, and athletic programs. Confirmation came from the Lord that Plumstead Christian was a place we could partner with in equipping our children, not only academically, but also biblically as they mature in their relationship with Christ.



It has been almost five years now that we have been at Plumstead Christian and we are so grateful for all Plumstead has been to our family. The experience has been such a blessing. To see a staff full of men and women wanting to serve the Lord by loving and teaching our children is more than any parent could ever ask for.

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