

In the broad spectrum of Christian education, the vigorous growth of Christian schools is among the more significant developments during recent years. Many new schools are starting, and many existing schools are growing.

The Christian school is not designed to replace the church or the home. Instead it seeks to supplement the responsibility of the church and the home. Because the Christian school and the evangelical church each adheres to a biblical philosophy of life, they seek to teach in harmony. By contrast, the non-Christian school and the evangelical church do not believe the same philosophy of life. The church teaches a philosophy of life based on revelation from God, whereas the non-Christian school rejects revelation and teaches a philosophy based on man's reason. The result is confusion for students, as they hear widely divergent teachings at church and in school.

The Christian school also seeks to work cooperatively with the Christian home. The school reinforces the home as the biblical directives and admonitions to parents are exercised by the teachers. During the school day, teachers stand in the place of parents.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

To comprehend the Christian school, its biblical basis must be examined, for the school justifies its existence from the Bible. The reasoning is this: if the Bible is true, education—to be true—must be based on the Bible. To put it another way, since there is a revelation from God, a school should be based on that revelation and not on the reason of natural man. To exclude the Bible from the philosophical foundation of a school is to present a false, distorted, and invalid education. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and of knowledge.

The following statements of educational philosophy, purpose, and objectives are typical of Christian schools:

1. God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things and the Source of all truth.
2. God maintains control over His entire universe.
3. Because of sin, man tends to omit God and thus fails to relate himself and his knowledge to God, the Source of all wisdom.
4. Regeneration is by faith in Jesus Christ. True meanings and values can be ascertained only in the light of His person, purpose, and work.
5. God has revealed Himself in a general way in His created universe and in a specific way in the Bible.
6. The home, the church, and the school should complement each other, promoting the student's spiritual, academic, social, and physical growth.
7. The teacher stands in the place of the parents, the place of authority and responsibility.
8. God has given differing abilities to each student. It is the teacher's respon-