

# THE CHRISTIAN HOME *and* the CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Pastor Clarence Sexton

When we say that the Christian school is not to substitute for the Christian home, what do we mean? In Christian education we are working with families, not instead of families. The foundation for life should be laid in the home.

There is no way that school can substitute for the home or the church. Children need to learn of the Lord Jesus Christ in a Christian home from their parents. When we hold the school responsible for things that parents should be responsible for, then we are encouraging parents to neglect what God has given them to do. These responsibilities extend much further than leading children to Christ.

The child should learn how to respond to adults in the home, and this can be reinforced in the school. A child should learn to pay attention in the home. A child should learn to eat properly in the home, expressing proper table manners. A child should learn to sit properly at meals and during times of instruction in the home. A child should learn correct grammar in the home. A child should learn respect for authority in the home. A child should learn to say “please” and “thank you,” “yes, sir” and “no, sir,” “yes, ma’am” and “no, ma’am” in the home. These things can be reinforced in the school.

A child should learn to love God and His Word in the home. A child should come to understand the place and importance of the local church as he or she grows up in the home. A child should learn to live a virtuous life in the home. A child should learn to love and appreciate all people in the home. All of these things should be taught in the Christian home, so that they can be reinforced in the Christian school.

The teacher is not a substitute for the parent. The school is not a substitute for the home. When the parent allows the teacher to become a parent substitute and the school to take the place of the home, then the children are deprived of the greatest learning place in God’s design for life.

Parents may feel they have done their part when they have made sacrifices to place their children in a Christian school, but we must always remember that God has a place for the home that cannot be replaced by the school.

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