A CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

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The following principles form a philosophy of education which will govern the formation, methodologies, and standards of the "BQCS" ("Brooklyn-Queens Christian School").

I. THE ABSOLUTE STANDARD FOR TRUTH IS THE SCRIPTURE (The Bible)

II. THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IS A PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

III. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IS FOR CHRISTIAN CHILDREN FROM CHRISTIAN HOMES

IV. ALL TEACHING MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

V. A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL MUST OFFER A BALANCED EDUCATION

VI. A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL MUST OFFER AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION

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I. THE ABSOLUTE STANDARD FOR TRUTH IS THE SCRIPTURE (The Bible)

God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and the Source of all truth. All truth is God's truth, and there is no truth that exists apart from God. He has revealed Himself (and the truth) to man through creation in a general way. He has revealed Himself (and the truth) most specifically through the Bible (John 17:17).

The Bible, God's special revelation, is infallible and inerrant. It provides the criterion for truth. The facts of natural revelation (creation) must be seen in the light of special revelation (the Bible).

Since God is Creator, the theory of evolution is an error (this philosophy rules out naturalism).

Since man is a fallen creature, sin has distorted life and thought (this rules out humanism).

Since Christ is the only Redeemer, there is no other means of salvation (this rules out sacramentalism).

Since the Bible is the absolute standard for truth, all other theories and theses must be measured by the Scriptures (this rules out relativism).

II. THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IS A PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

The basic premise of "BQCS" ("Brooklyn-Queens Christian School") is that the ultimate responsibility of a child's education lies with the parent. God has provided BQCS to assist parents in fulfilling their God-given mandate to teach their children in the fear and nurture of the Lord.

The Christian school, therefore, is a servant of the parents. Christian education is an extension of the home.

According to the Scriptures, the training of children is not primarily the purpose of the Church, nor is it the purpose of the State, but it is a parental responsibility. Therefore, while the State does have a right to ensure the physical safety of its people, it should not have the prerogative to dictate the standards and procedures of the Christian school.

In the Scriptures, God has commanded two New Testament institutions to educate: the home and the church.

The Christian education of children is primarily the responsibility of the home.

God has ordained that parents be responsible for the education of their children (Gen. 18:19; Deut. 6:7; Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4; II Tim. 1:5, 3:15). Therefore, any formal training of children outside of the home should be with the consent of the parents, under the supervision of the parents, financed by the parents, in cooperation with the parents, and accountable to the parents.

CHURCH (primary goal is to teach God's principles [truth] - I Timothy 3:15)

HOME (primary goal is to teach God's principles to the children)

SCHOOL (an extension of the home - to fulfill the parent's desires for assistance with the formal education of their children)

Deuteronomy 6:6, 7 - "And these words which I am commanding you today shall be in your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up."

Ephesians 6:6b - ". . . Bring up your children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

BQCS provides a program of instruction for the parents so that they will become acquainted with the philosophy and goals of the school.

III. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IS FOR CHRISTIAN CHILDREN FROM CHRISTIAN HOMES

The community to which BQCS is directed is, for the most part, composed of born-again evangelical Christians and their children. BQCS seeks a student population where at least one of the parents is a professing, dedicated believer. BQCS is not to provide Christian nurture in the place of the home, but as a supplement to the Godly instruction of the parents and the church.

Just as the standard (the basis or foundation) for truth is the Bible (John 17:17), so the ability to understand that truth comes from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ (John 14:6).

Christian education is impossible without the child's experience of salvation and regeneration.

To facilitate true learning, the student must desire to please God ("The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" - Proverbs 9:10a). He/she must be willing to uphold the school's standards to avoid disruption, disharmony, etc. The student must truly want to attend the school, realizing that such education is a privilege and not a "right."

No student must be admitted or tolerated in the school who would be harmful to the spiritual life of the other students.

The parents must support the Christian school as it seeks to instill a well-rounded yet unified picture of God and His world into the minds and consciences of their children.

IV. ALL TEACHING MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

All classroom instruction and activities are accomplished from a Biblical perspective. In Christian education, no area of living and thinking may be divorced from God for the children. The Christian school, therefore, seeks to build in the child a Christian world and life view. In other words, it must guide the youth in discovering a Christian perspective on all areas of life.

Therefore, it is the task of teach teacher to analyze and interpret his/her subject area through God's special revelation, the Bible. God belongs in the center of education:

--In Science, we want the children to know they're studying God's laws for

the universe

--In History, we want them to see the unfolding of God's plan through the ages and the redemption of His people

--In Literature, we want them to be able to test other writers by Christian standards so that they will appreciate that which is good and true and beautiful

--In Civics, we want them to know that true government is ordained of God and requires their prayers, loyalty and support

II Corinthians 10:5 - "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

V. A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL MUST OFFER A <u>BALANCED</u> EDUCATION

BQCS seeks the development of the <u>whole person</u> for service in God's kingdom. The children must be led to develop a life of discipleship, making full use of the abilities God has given them. BQCS recognizes the uniqueness of each student as one created in God's image with varying gifts and talents, and each one having a particular place and calling in God's kingdom with specific talents to offer the local church and to use for His glory.

Luke 2:52 says: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." The goal of BQCS is to seek to develop these same four areas in which Christ grew in His youth. He increased: 1) intellectually; 2) physically;

3) spiritually; and 4) socially -- according to the absolute standards of the Word of God.

Therefore, BQCS seeks to impart a balanced education in the following areas:

1) The development of strong academics (with emphasis on a child's strong points, or areas of giftedness and interest)

2) The development of physical education (with emphasis not merely on winning sports, but playing fairly and whole-heartedly)

3) The development of Christian character (of extreme importance is the child's acquisition of personal discipline, respect for authority, loyalty to Truth, honesty, etc.)

4) The development of social skills (learning how to communicate with others, principles of ethics, and developing a life's goal of serving others is stressed)

The Christian school is to nurture the strengths and strengthen the weaknesses of a student and to help that child find God's will for his/her life and do it. A major goal, therefore, is that each student utilize his/her talent (gift; skill) as a "full-time Christian" in whatever career God desires for that child.

VI. A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL MUST OFFER AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION

The Bible exhorts us to "do all to the glory of God" (I Corinthians 10:31); therefore, all teaching faculty must be spiritually and academically qualified. Ungodly teachers cannot convey God's truth with God's power. The teachers must be saved, evidence Christ-likeness, agree with the philosophy and methodology of BQCS, and demonstrate an academic competency that would

suit a quality education.

The textbooks and curriculum, etc., must also be of the highest quality (in context).

The school and administration provide the necessary facilities, staff, equipment and materials to carry out the education of the children. These provisions are made so that children of Christian parents may be fully equipped to meet the demands of the Christian life in our complex, pluralistic, multi-cultural society.

CONCLUSION:

The basic purpose of Christian education is the directing of the process of human development toward God's objective for the Christian: Godliness of character and conduct (attitude and action). All education should have as its goal not merely the inculcation of truth but the practical utilization of that truth for the well-being of others. The goal of Christian education is to produce truly "great" leaders--who have as their goal to serve others and thereby serve God.