

Christian Education Curriculum

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It is the philosophy of our church that there are certain essentials that should be part of any well-rounded Christian Education Program. Within the local church, Christian education takes place primarily through the Sunday School and the teaching services of the church. However, most Christian education is to take place in the home, directed and lead by the father.

The purpose of this outline is give a framework to Christian Education. Over the years, Christians of deep spiritual understanding have come to believe that certain things should be taught to all. This outline is an attempt to get a handle on those key essentials of the Christian life.

This information could be used by fathers to assist them in developing teaching plans for their families. It could also be used by the church to determine what content should be included in a teaching program. Most of the time for Sunday School, purchased professional materials may be used. However, these should not be used arbitrarily. The question always needs to be asked: Do the lessons move us forward in the areas we are most interested in?

We have divided this outline into two essential sections. The first is the knowledge section. These are things we believe people should know. They are phrased in behavioral terms. What is a person able to do based on the knowledge. The second section is the discipline section. What is the person actually doing? We believe there are practices that every Christian should be doing.

Knowledge Section

- I. Bible knowledge
 - A. Structure
 1. Books of the Bible – Be able to name them.
 2. Authors - Be able to name 5 O.T. authors and 5 N.T. authors
 - a) Name the author of the Pentateuch
 - b) Name the primary author of the Psalms
 3. Divisions -- history, poetry, letters,
 - a) Identify books that fall into each category.
 4. Time frame
 - a) Give the approximate time frame for flood, Abraham, David, fall of Israel or Judah
 - b) Give the approximate time frame for the birth of Christ, the resurrection, the preaching of Paul
 5. Main themes Give the main theme or key ideas of each book of the Bible.
 - B. How we got our Bible
 1. Canon – How do we know which books are actually part of the Bible? What evidence is used for the O.T. Books? What evidence for the N.T. books?
 2. Inspiration – Describe what is meant by inspiration. Give a couple of key Bible passages that discuss this doctrine.
 - C. Old Testament
 1. Creation – fall
 - a) List the 6 days of Creation
 - b) How did sin enter into the world?

- c) Where did Satan come from?
 - d) What happened in the fall?
- 2. Fall – flood
 - a) Why did God send the flood?
 - b) How much of the world did it cover?
- 3. Flood – Abraham
 - a) What happened at Babel? What is the significance?
 - b) What are the key points regarding Abraham? How is that followed up in Romans and Hebrews?
- 4. Abraham – Moses
 - a)
- 5. Moses - Promised land
 - a) Wilderness wanderings - applications in NT
 - b) Tabernacle -- illustrations of Christ
- 6. Pre-king period/judges
- 7. Saul, David, Solomon
- 8. Divided Kingdom
- 9. Captivity
- 10. Return
- 11. Prophecies

D. New Testament

- 1. Forerunner of Christ - John
 - a) John's mission
 - b) John's message
 - c) John's baptism
 - (1) How different from Christian baptism
 - d) Is he Elijah?
- 2. Life of Jesus Christ
 - a) Ministry of Christ
 - (1) Jesus' kingdom teaching
 - (2) Reason for parables
 - (3) Miracles
 - b) Death and resurrection
 - c) Post-resurrection period
 - (1) Appearances – to whom and why
- 3. Expansion of the church
 - a) Book of Acts

- (1) Transitional nature of book
 - (a) Care in establishing doctrines
 - (i) Offer of the kingdom
 - (ii) Baptism of repentance
 - (b) Presentation of the gospel to various groups –pagans vs. Jews
 - b) Epistles who wrote them and major themes and time and circumstance of writing
 - (1) Paul's
 - (2) Peter's
 - (3) John's
 - (4) Others
- II. Doctrine
 - A. Catechism
 - B. Creeds
- III. Bible Study Skills (Every student should have been trained in how to use these resources and should have several of them in his library.)
 - A. Concordance
 - B. Vine's
 - C. Greek/Hebrew Interlinear
 - D. Commentary
 - E. Atlas
 - F. Computer software
 - G. Theological Word Book of the OT/NT
 - H. Cross references
 - I. Bible dictionaries
 - J. Computer software such as logos or similar
- IV. Life Applications
 - A. Apologetics
 - 1. Should be able to give essential arguments for the Christian faith.
 - B. World Views
 - C. Hymnology
 - D. Great Books The student should have read many books such as these
 - 1. Confessions of St. Augustine
 - 2. Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan
 - 3. Poems of John Donne
 - 4. Selections from Foxes book of Martyrs
 - 5. C.S. Lewis: Mere Christianity, Screwtape Letters, The Problem of Pain, Miracles
 - 6. John Milton Paradise Lost
 - 7. Thomas a' Kempis the Imitation of Christ
 - 8. Dietrich Bonhoeffer The Cost of Discipleship
 - 9. Carl F. H. Henry God, revelation and Authority
 - 10. Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret

11. Spiritual Depression D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones
12. Harold Lindsell the Battle for the Bible
13. Josh McDowell Evidence that Demands a Verdict
14. J.I. Packer – Knowing God
15. John Piper -- the Pleasures of God
16. Francis Shaeffer The God Who is There
17. John Stott Basic Christianity
18. A.W. Tozer the pursuit of God
19. Joshua by Ryrie?
20. The Greatness of the Kingdom -- McClain

E. Biographies

1. Luther
2. Calvin
3. Huss
4. Moody
5. Augustine
6. Aquinas
7. Francis Schaeffer
8. C. S. Lewis
9. Bonhoeffer
10. Hudson Taylor

F. Church History

1. Spread of the Church
2. Early councils and the clarification of the doctrine of Christ and the Holy Spirit
3. Reformation
4. Key Individuals
 - a) Augustine
 - b)

V. Christian Disciplines

A. Obedient Living

B. Devotions

C. The Word

1. Meditation
2. Memorization
 - a) Should have a plan for regular memorization and review of Scripture.

D. Prayer

E. Witnessing

- F. Fellowship
- VI. The Gospel
 - A. Objective: To be able to explain the content of the Gospel in understandable terms using appropriate Scriptures
 - B. Objective: Is able to use his/her testimony in explaining the Gospel to others
- VII. Christ As Our Life
 - A. Christ is the life of the Christian
 - 1. We are in Christ and He is in us
 - 2. We are organically connected as branches in a vine
 - 3. It is his life that empowers us
 - a) "I labor through His power that works in me mightily"
 - 4. The life we have is eternal life
 - a) It is the life of God which has existed for ever
 - b) We participate in that life because God dwells in us through Christ
 - c) He who has the Son has life
 - d) God's seed is in us
 - e) We are made to share in the divine nature.
 - 5. Questions
 - a) What chapter contains the vine/branches illustration?
 - b) How does Christ being our life apply to our security and assurance?
 - c) Describe what eternal life is.
 - B. Being in Adam vs being in Christ
 - 1. Original sin/Adam our representative
 - a) Adam's sin is counted as our own
 - b) That's why we are born dead in trespasses and sins
 - c) The Spirit is dead to God and no communication with God is possible
 - 2. Christ our representative
 - a) Dead, risen and ascended with Christ
 - b) Christ's righteousness is imputed to us in the same way that Adam's sin is imputed to us
 - c) What we were in Adam is gone
 - (1) God does not regenerate the old. He replaces it with the new
 - 3. Questions
 - a) Using a line diagram show what happened at salvation regarding your life in Adam and your life in Christ.
 - b) Using the diagram, describe eternal life.
 - c) Describe the doctrine of original sin. Counter the argument that we are sinners because we have committed sins. Bring in appropriate Scriptures.
 - d) Describe what it means to be dead in trespasses and sins. What part is dead?

- e) Using Scripture, describe the person who is outside of Christ.
- f) Describe the effectiveness of the prayer life of an unbeliever and relate it to this topic.
- g) List and describe our position as having died with Christ. Use Scripture verses. Especially relate this to the world, law, sin, etc.
- h) Describe what is meant by imputed righteousness.

C. Justification by faith

1. When we trust Christ to save us, he declares us righteous
 - a) It is as though we had never sinned
 - b) Abraham is the example. He believed God and God counted it as righteousness.
 - c) The just ones shall live by their faith.
2. Our sins are not remembered against us any more
3. He adopts us into his family and makes us co-heirs with Christ
4. Has nothing to do with how we live our life
 - a) Works are the outflow of the life of God in us
5. Questions
 - a) What is meant by justification by faith.
 - b) Quote verses which indicate our total forgiveness.
 - c) Describe faith in Christ which does not save and give examples from Scripture.
 - d) Describe the relationship between faith and works.

D. Living by faith

1. We are to live by faith - trusting and believing God through each day
2. In the same way we are justified by faith we also grow by faith.
 - a) We are not perfected by keeping the law but by living by faith
3. Questions
 - a) Using appropriate scriptures explain how living by faith is just as necessary as being born again by faith.

E. Assurance of salvation

1. Christ has taken up abode with us
2. He has given his spirit as a seal
3. Spirit is a down payment
4. He will lose none of those who are his
5. Salvation was initiated by God and so we are also kept by God.
 - a) God finishes what he starts
6. Questions
 - a) Give several verses of Scripture that assure you of your salvation.
 - b) Using the tests in I John, illustrate your assurance of salvation based upon God's transformation of your life.

F. New nature

1. God has put a new spirit in his people
2. The nature of the Christian is to follow Christ
 - a) His sheep hear his voice and follow him
 - b) The godly love His word
3. Questions
 - a) List the spiritual benefits of the New Covenant
 - b) Explain how we know that the spiritual benefits are in place today in the life of the Christian.
 - c) How do these benefits guarantee our sanctification as well as our justification.
 - d) Quote several verses that demonstrate that the new creature loves God's word.

VIII. Important Doctrines

A. Trinity

1. God
 - a) A Spirit
 - b) Uncreated-eternal
 - c) Omniscient
 - d) Omnipresent
 - e) Perfectly righteous
 - f) Decrees
 - g) Sovereignty
2. Christ
 - a) Incarnation
 - b) Virgin birth
 - c) His offices
 - d) His humiliation
 - e) Creator & Sustainer
 - f) Preeminance of Christ
 - g) The Cross
 - (1) We died with
 - (2) We are crucified to world
 - (3) We are crucified to law
 - (4) Jesus became sin
 - (5) He bore our sins there
 - (6) He was the lamb of God
 - (7) We glory in the cross
3. Holy Spirit
 - a) Ministry of the Holy Spirit

- b) Fruit of the Spirit
 - (1) Love
 - (a) Love of God
 - (b) Love for other believers
 - (c) Love of our enemies
 - (d) Forgiveness
 - (e) Love for the weaker brother
- c) Grieving the Spirit
- d) Quenching the Spirit
- e) Being filled with the Spirit
 - (1) Spirit-filled life
 - (a) We are not to be drunk or controlled by wine
 - (b) We are to be filled with the spirit
- f) Baptism in the Spirit
 - (1) Operation that places us into the body of Christ
- g) Gifts of the Spirit
 - (1) Purpose of gifts
 - (2) Danger in exalting
 - (a) Specifically tongues and healing
- h) Walking in the Spirit
 - (1) How is walking in the spirit and the life of victory related?

B. Man

- 1. Nature of man
 - a) Three parts
 - (1) Body
 - (2) Soul
 - (3) Spirit
- 2. Death
- 3. Resurrection
 - a) New body
 - b) Absent from the body/present with the Lord

C. Church

- 1. Body of Christ
 - a) Proper functioning of each part
 - b) Gifts necessary for proper functioning
- 2. Unforeseen in the O.T.
 - a) Relationship of church to Israel

- b) God's purposes in the church
- 3. The leaders in the church
 - a) Pastor
 - b) Elder
 - c) Deacon
- 4. Handling of sinning brothers
- 5. Practical aspects
 - a) Leading singing
 - b) Public prayer
 - c) Taking offering
 - d) Helping with communion
 - e) Planning a service
 - f) Ushering & welcoming
 - g) How to lead a Bible study
 - h) How to teach a SS class

D. Angels

- 1. Good angels
- 2. Satan
 - a) Satan a fallen angel

E. Sin

- 1. God is not the author of sin
- 2. Sin is the transgression of the law
- 3. Penalty of sin is death

F. Creation

- 1. Creation vs evolution
- 2. Importance of creation as foundation for rest of scripture
 - a) Work
 - b) Marriage
 - c) Care of environment
- 3. Recognizing our special creation and purpose in the plan of God

G. Election

- 1. Recognize God's right over creation
- 2. Recognize God's choice of you from eternity past
 - a) Knowing what you would be like
 - b) Knowing the amount of work He would have to do to change you.
- 3. Rejoice in the fact that God has established purpose and meaning for your life.

H. Eschatology

1. Rapture
 - a) Difference between rapture & second coming
 - b) Tribulation
 - c) Millenium

I. Grace

1. Common-What God does in grace for all people
2. Special-What God does in grace for his children

J. Punishment

1. Lake of fire
2. Punishment eternal
3. For those who are not Christ's

K. Redemption

1. Bought us from the slave market of sin
2. Redeemed us from the curse of the law

L. Sanctification

1. Position
2. Practical

M. Justification

N. Israel vs Church

1. Israel and the church are not the same thing
2. God's program for Israel has not been cancelled
3. He will continue the program when the church age is over

IX. The Christian Life

A. Marriage/Family

1. Courtship/Dating
2. Purpose of marriage
3. Husband - wife relationship
 - a) Proper view of submission among family members
 - b) Recognize God's structure of authority
4. Divorce
5. Parent/Child

B. Relationship to government

C. Work

D. Finances

E. Relationships with others

1. Those in authority
2. Developing wholesome friendships

3. Maintaining a clear conscience with others