



Christian Values in Education

Education Matters

ISSUE 22.6

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Welcome to this issue of CViE Education Matters, for October 2022.

Education Matters is designed to provide parents and those interested in education with current “snippets” of information that might be of help in understanding and dealing with educational issues and bringing up children in a society that, on the whole, does not hold any respect for biblical teaching.

As we may have written before, who could have imagined that a ‘document’ with a title “Education Matters” would contain references to matters not faced, with such intensity, by parents in previous generations? Indeed, the current generations of parents are the first to have to deal with the ‘digital generation’.

Our mercy is that the Lord is Sovereign and rules over all things. The danger of the age in which we live is that Christians can be drawn away from the foundational truths of the Bible by the influences around them. They compromise their position and like the man who built his house upon the sand see ruin come upon them. How we need to examine ourselves, be found in prayer without ceasing, ever watchful, kept from wandering from the Lord, in the world but never of it.

In this edition we cover the following:

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RECENT BLOG POSTS AT THE CViE WEBSITE

[Starting University](#)

[University Life](#)

[GAMBLING: The Christian](#)

Click [here](#) for all CViE blog posts.

On behalf of the CViE Trustees -
With Christian regards,

Michael (Ridout)
Chairman

Reflection

The importance of the family

Jim Daly (President of Focus on the Family) writing in a blog post titled “The Restoration of the Family and Revival in America” was concerned with the social and moral decline in America, commenting:

“Violence is just one symptom of a sick society. Other signs include a disregard or downright hostility toward all things sacred, because of our selfishness, seeing children as burdens rather than blessings, the normalization of aberrant sexual behavior and a general disregard for civility and good manners.”

He went on to comment further,

“But the societal collapse we’re currently finding our way through will not be solved at the polls or by politicians..... The only way to right our ship is by a return to biblical principles, especially a restoration of the nuclear family. Every problem is rooted in the dysfunction of the home. If we solve our problems at home and in our families, we will be properly addressing the fundamental source of culture’s sickness.”

Reference was made to Dr Tony Evans who wrote, “The saga of a nation is the saga of its families written large - whoever owns the family owns the future. When family structure breaks down, all manner of calamity and chaos enter into society. When family breaks down, crime goes up, poverty goes up, abuse goes up. When the family breaks down, gender confusion and role confusion go up.”

The post warned that ignoring Dr Evans’ point is to our own, and our country’s, peril.

The blog can be found online at [Focus on the Family](#).

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Whilst reading this, our thoughts went to a comment made by Mr F H Wright in his book written 85 years ago *The Ten Commandments - Meditations on the Decalogue*. In the author's consideration of the fifth commandment **Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee**" (Exodus 20:12), the following comment was made: "The nation's safeguards for prosperity and permanence lie in a reverence for the family; defence of the hearth is as important as defence of the coast."

That observation of Mr F H Wright is well made. The hearth and the fireplace were, in many respects, the place where the family gathered together for warmth and companionship. The home and ordering of the family according to the Word of God was seen as central to society. National defence is important, however, the maintaining of family values according to biblical teaching is just as vital. As noted above, these things if ignored are at our own, and country's peril.

The question arises how we as Christian are to walk according to the precepts of the Scripture regarding maintaining Christian values and keeping ourselves **unspotted from the world** (James 1:27). In this age of compromise and digital dangers, have we allowed in the back door those things that we kept from the front door?

Mr F H Wright's book, published by the Sovereign Grace Union (SGU), is out of print but there are second-hand copies available on the Internet.

One final observation: someone once commented that the introduction of central heating was the beginning of the dispersing of the family. You may or may not agree fully with the statement, yet the sentiments expressed have validity. Might we now add Wi-Fi and handheld devices as contributors to the dispersal of the family from the 'hearth'?

EDUCATION

The following House of Commons Library documents are produced to inform MPs about issues that are either debated in Parliament or to brief them when asked questions about a particular topic. The documents are a useful source also to the 'lay-person' who may be looking to gain an understanding of a particular issue. The following have been identified for those who have an interest in education both specifically and generally:

Student support for undergraduates across the UK

This briefing outlines the student finance available to undergraduate higher education students in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. It also covers recent policy debates about the student support system in each nation. The briefing may be of interest to those thinking of entering higher education wishing to find out more about how student financial support works. The briefing can be found at [Student Support](#).

Independent schools (England)

This briefing provides a broad overview of issues relevant to independent schools. Around 6% of pupils in England attend schools that are not funded by the state. The term 'independent school' in legislation includes academies, which are state-funded, but more commonly the term is used to refer to schools that do not receive state financing, but are instead principally funded through the fees paid by pupils. This briefing is concerned with fee-charging independent schools and can be found at [Independent Schools](#).

The UK's constitutional monarchy

This House of Commons Library webpage features Library briefings on the Crown, the relationship with Parliament and the Church, the Commonwealth and the Overseas Territories and the roles associated with the U.K.'s Constitutional Monarch. This may be of interest to those involved in teaching constitutional history or having to deal with these topics as part of the general curriculum. The briefing can be found at [Constitutional Monarchy](#).

Everything you need to know about phonics in schools

This post on the Department for Education's 'Education Hub' website explains 'what is phonics?' and how they are used to effectively teach children to read. Information is also provided on how children's understanding of phonics knowledge is checked. The webpage may be of interest to parents whose children have started school but are not familiar with this aspect of education. More details can be found at [Phonics Explained](#).

ETHICAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

We have included a number of items relating to ethical and societal issues that impinge on education and bringing up children. There was a time when education was about the 3Rs of Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic - but now it seems to be the 3Rs of Relationships, Rights and Results. Although relationships and rights have a place in the curriculum, the concern is the God-dishonouring ideologies that are introduced in them.

Pornography: Dangers and Decisions

This is the title of a new resource for schools published by Lovewise. The resource considers in a sensitive way a subject that there is often a fear to discuss. Lovewise introduces the subject by pointing out that, "Pornography is widespread and easily accessible but many young people have never been taught about pornography and the dangerous consequences that watching it can have. This resource provides teachers with information and visuals to give a lesson on the issues involved and to encourage young people to make good decisions about what they look at."

We would echo their statement, "Please pray for a good uptake by schools and that God will use *Pornography: Dangers & Decisions* to protect many young people from viewing harmful content, particularly on the internet".

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Lovewise also encourages those who can to pass on information about this resource to parents, teachers, governors and others involved in secondary education - surely it is better that this resource goes into schools with Christian perspective rather than others written from the secular viewpoint. More information can be found on the [Lovewise website](#).

Lovewise have also produced resources for use in schools and these can be found at [Lovewise school resources](#) and for parents at [Lovewise for parents](#).

The Transgender Debate on Gender Identity

'The Transgender Debate on Gender Identity' is the title of a podcast produced by an organisation, Faith in Kids.

I recently listened to this podcast and was taken by how practical it was in dealing with issues of identity, its applicability, and focus on parents. A contributor to the podcast was Dr Julie Maxwell who is a community paediatrician and undertakes work for Lovewise. Julie speaks from her practical experience of dealing with the issues mentioned in the podcast and Christian beliefs. (Julie was one of the contributors on the TiS 'Transgender Agenda' DVD) The other contributor is Andrew Bunt from Living Out, a professing Christian who has wrestled with his identity and attractions.

Although there are aspects of the Faith in Kids website we may not be able to fully endorse, they do have a genuine concern for the spiritual well-being of children. The podcast can be found at [Faith in Kids](#).

Will Your Daughter's Next College Roommate Be a Man

This post on the Answers in Genesis (AIG) website sounds a warning over the US Department of Education's proposed changes to legislation that would expand sex discrimination to include discrimination on the basis of gender identity. This means colleges (where there are separate male and female dormitories) would be forced to treat students according to their subjective gender identity, putting males who identify as women in the same dorms as women, without knowledge or consent of the female roommates (and vice versa)! The article can be found at [Answers in Genesis](#).

Although in the UK there may be a mixture of accommodation options for halls of residence, it must be becoming more difficult for students who may not be in agreement with the LGBT+ agenda to live in the accommodation provided. Out of interest, an online search for 'halls of residence' with 'LGBT students' revealed that one of the accommodation options for this group of students is to provide them with exclusive accommodation to provide a secure and comfortable home. The intention seems to be to keep them from potential harassment from others, or worse - such action towards this group of students cannot be condoned. The question must be asked, however: what provision is made for students with other protected characteristics, such as religion or belief?

CViE would be interested to hear anonymously from parents and students who have had to deal with issues of finding appropriate accommodation in higher education and the challenges faced. We might then share experiences with others (anonymously) who may have to walk this path in the future. Please contact us on enquiries@cvie.org.uk.

5 Foundations That Lead to Compromise on Sexual Ethics

This article by Brett McCracken explores the deceptions that lead Christians into compromising their faith and moving from a biblical position. The author concludes, “Maybe you’ve read this and seen yourself in one or more of the categories. Don’t be alarmed. Take it as a warning and challenge to shore up your faith, seal the cracks, and patch the holes, so that it will withstand the storm surge of sexual ethics in the 21st century”. How we need to walk circumspectly and take heed lest we fall - the article can be found at [5 Foundations](#).

Parents’ victory over school that backed ‘gender-change’ pupils, aged six

This article by Tim Dieppe (Christian Concern) traces the five year battle of Nigel and Sally Rowe over issues relating to transgender and transitioning in the Church of England primary school. The author traces out the journey that the Rowe’s had to walk in holding to their Christian beliefs, and the support of the Christian Legal Centre. The outcome was that the government has committed to reform guidance for schools on transgender issues. The author concludes the article with the following comment: a wake-up call for us all?

“It’s time for parents, teachers, and governors to stand up against the sexualisation of young children. Silence is acquiescence – you are complicit in the abuse. Who will speak for the children? I hope the example of the Rows encourages many more to do so. We can’t allow the next generation to be sexualised and lied to any more”.

Is this a wake-up call for us all?

The article can be found at [parents’ victory](#).

Trans charity’s ‘irresponsible’ online forum has major safeguarding issues

This article on the Christian Institute website exposes the behaviour of the trans-activist group, Mermaids. The misconduct included gender-confused children sharing personal details in online chat groups without any apparent moderation, investigations into a trustee an organisation promoting paedophilia, and a Charity Commission investigation into Mermaids’ activities.

Although it is encouraging that the behaviour of trans-groups such as Mermaids and Stonewall have come under scrutiny, we must not lose sight that God is not mocked and he does hear the prayers of his people (Psalm 60:12).

The article can be found by [Mermaids under scrutiny](#).

TECHNOLOGY

Technology can be used for both good and evil purposes and it has been said that it is not the technology but how we use it that matters. The following items have been included to help parents, teachers, those involved in education and young people in the use of technology. The items also make useful reading for adults in general.

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It was interesting to hear Sir Jeremy Fleming (Head of the U.K.'s Intelligence, Cyber and Security Agency GCHQ) in a radio interview on 11 October 2022 speak about concerns over China's influence within science and technology together with Internet especially in other countries. Sir Jeremy explained that the use of data by China was a real concern, and when asked what advice he would give to a parent about their children's use of smart phones and the Internet, he commented "speak to the child about the way they use personal data on their device - think before you do (share any data)". Wise words for adults as well!

Digital Safety Planner

Defend Young Minds have available for free download a booklet published for parents - "Digital Safety Planner", which provides practical advice on: filters and parental controls, supervising online activity and discussing with children the issues related with being online. Although American in origin and some of the content may not be fully applicable to the UK, the principles and points discussed will be of value to parents. The Digital Safety Planner can be found at [Digital Safety Planner](#).

6 Tactics for Using Social Media Intentionally

This post published by Chris Martin (Terms of Service) is something we should all read, young and old, in assessing our responsible use of social media and the stewardship of the time the Lord has given us. The six tactics that have been identified are: 1. Set time limit; 2. Turn off all notifications; 3. Put your phone to bed someplace else; 4. Ask questions of social platforms; 5. Invest in off-line relationships and 6. Peer accountability. The blog post can be found at [Using Social Media](#).

How to Help Teens Who Are Anxious and Depressed

This article by Jared Kennedy (ERLC) covers a range of topics that children and young people are faced with and the impact this may have on them. One interesting comment made about smart phones was that, it is one thing to give children a smart phone, but does the child have the emotional skills to deal with those things they may experience through social media? The article was sympathetically written and although it may be hard reading, it may be a necessary read in helping support children and young people in the confusion around them. The article can be found at [How to Help Teens](#).

Help! I Messed Up with My Kids' Technology

This article is written by a mother who writes sensitively about the challenges of bringing up children in this digital age. The following extract is something many will recognise, "It's a common parenting misstep; we often take our cues from what other parents are doing. We assume that if families around us, especially Christian families, are allowing such things, then it must be OK. Maybe you didn't want to deprive your child of something that it seemed like everyone else had. Maybe you feared being typecast as "the only parent," "overly protective," or "too strict," or as preventing your children from advancing with their generation. These fears take our eyes off evaluating what is wise and good, and toward an ideal everyone else seems to have found." The article can be read at [I Messed Up](#).

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Digital Discipleship

This new eBook published by the Gospel Coalition addresses issues such as: navigating and understanding the dangers in the digital world, guarding your heart from unhealthy habits and maintaining our Christian walk. The eBook is a useful starting point in considering the issues faced by Christians in a digital age and can be downloaded at [Digital Discipleship](#).

Forthcoming events

CViE Online 'Meet-Up': State Education – Make a Difference, Become a School Governor!

CViE is organizing an online 'Meet-Up' on Friday, 11 November 2022 to discuss becoming a school governor. You will learn what it involves and why it matters, as well as practical guidance on how to become one and how much work it involves. Our hope is that current (or prospective) governors and parents will be helped and encouraged. The Meet-Up will be led by Tim Kingham who is Chair of Trustees (the governing body) for a Multi Academy Trust in Bedfordshire. Opportunity will be provided, after the introductory contributions, for questions and discussion. Please feel free to pass these details on to anyone you know who may be interested in this event – read more [here](#).

'SPECIAL' DAYS THAT MAY BE COMING TO YOUR SCHOOL

OCTOBER

Black History Month
World Food Day

NOVEMBER

World Vegan Day
Diwali
World Science Day
Inter Faith Week
International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

Finally ...

Please let us know if there are any topics that you feel should be covered in *Education Matters*. If you come across any issues at all that may be of interest to supporters of CViE, please let us know by emailing: enquiries@cvie.org.uk

We would acknowledge the Lord's goodness in providing for the work of CViE, and if you are able to contribute to our continued work please donate [here](#).

The Lord grant us a spirit of prayer, that He might help parents and those involved in education to hold fast to the Word of God and that He might watch over children and young people and keep them from the dangers that would corrupt them.