

SAFETYNET

DEVELOPING A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW THROUGH FAMILY DEVOTIONS



THE SAFETYNET PLAN

BY

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INTRODUCTION

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thy heart. And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.—Deuteronomy 6:6-7

The command given by God in Deuteronomy 6:6-7 is to be our goal. As parents we want our children to be well trained. Morning, noon, and night . . . we want them exposed to the truth. Our desire is that throughout all the waking hours of the day, “whatever is right, whatever is lovely (and) whatever is praiseworthy” (Phil 4:8) will be impressed upon their minds and hearts. In every area of their studies—literature, science, government, philosophy, history, etc.—we want every thought to be brought into obedience to Jesus Christ (2 Cor 10:5).

This goal, however, is not easily achieved. Such an education is possible only in the consistently Christian school or when children are instructed in a consistently Christian home. For a variety of reasons, Christian school is often beyond the reach of a majority of Christian parents. For some, these schools are few and far between, or too expensive. For others, work and other necessary commitments make home-schooling an impossibility, at least for the immediate future. And in some countries, Christian schools simply do not exist, and home-schooling is forbidden by law. What, therefore, are concerned Christian parents to do? Is there an answer?

Today in many nations around the world, government controlled education openly promotes the religion of Secular Humanism in the classroom. In these schools, a selfish, hedonistic, anti-God religion has become the semi-official religion taught to the students. Jesus Christ is ridiculed, moral values taught by parents and church are divided, and sexual promiscuity, adultery, fornication, abortion, divorce, and euthanasia are presented as both healthy and fashionable. In addition, the acceptance of homosexuality is promoted as an exercise in personal freedom, with much time spent in amoral sex

education instruction. And it is not unusual for young people to be indoctrinated at school with the idea that their fathers and mothers are old-fashioned, ignorant, and out of touch with modern society. What is a parent to do? Is there an answer?

Apart from the consistent Christian day school and home school, there are no easy answers. However, what we are attempting to do, beginning with chapter two, is to offer a solution that we believe will be helpful. Having tested this plan with public school students and their parents, we know it has merit. If used faithfully, it does provide a “safety net” or “ark” of protection.

The best answer, of course, is a daily Christian education. However, as a stop-gap measure, or simply to augment your present Christian day school or home school instruction, we offer *The SafetyNet Plan*.

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THE PROBLEM OF HUMANISTIC EDUCATION

Before we begin to outline *The SafetyNet Plan* in chapter two, we must first take another look at the problem. The book of Proverbs speaks of clearly seeing the evil and then taking the corrective action. Where there is no vision, the solution is sure to fail. We must, therefore, be firmly convinced of the problem.

Most dictionaries define humanism as some sort of contemporary cult which substitutes faith in man for faith in God. And it is exactly this faith—the religion of man—that we claim the government schools are promoting.

In 1985 U.S. Secretary of Education, William Bennett, was asked a question at his first press conference: “The claim has been made that Secular Humanism is taught in the schools. By your definition, what is it?” Bennett responded, “... there is something called Secular Humanism—it’s not mysterious, it’s not something that one has to wonder about its meaning ... read the Humanist Manifesto...”

John Dewey, known as the father of progressive education, signed the Manifesto. So did C.F. Potter, who is the author of *Humanism: A New Religion*. In his book, Potter writes: “Education is thus a most powerful ally of humanism, and every American public school is a school of humanism. What can the theistic Sunday schools, meeting for an hour once a week, and teaching only a fraction of the children, do to stem the tide of a five-day program of humanistic teaching?”

For the humanist, the purpose of education is to train up the child to be a servant of man and answerable to man. However, for the Christian, the purpose of education is to train up the child to be a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ and answerable to God.

Therefore, what we have today are two competing powers. There is a gigantic battle taking place for the souls, the minds, and the bodies of our sons and daughters. It is a battle for the spiritual development and scholastic well-being of our precious children. And in this warfare there can be no substitute for victory.

In Jeremiah 10:2 we read, “Learn not the way of the heathen.” The apostle Paul also tells us, “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit.” Sad to say, many of our Christian young people are learning and copying the ways of the pagans. They have become rebellious. Parents are no longer honored. Interest in church and spiritual things has declined. Humanistic philosophy has spoiled their hearts.

Leading secular humanist Paul Blanchard, writing in *The Humanist*, pronounced: “I think the most important factor leading us to a secular society has been the educational factor. Our schools may not teach Johnny to read properly, but the fact that Johnny is in school until he is 16 tends to lead toward the elimination of religious superstition. The average child now acquires a high school education, and this militates against Adam and Eve and all other myths of alleged history.”

Yes, we know that our youngsters and teenagers must some day face the real world out there with all of its humanistic perversion, sin, and debauchery. Such are the very things that people encounter in the adult world every day. However, godly discernment makes crystal clear the fact that adults are far better equipped to handle these situations emotionally and otherwise. They are also, generally speaking, more solidly grounded in biblical morality and Christian ethics. But children are vulnerable. Teenagers are very impressionable. They must be protected. Help must be given. God’s Word demands it.

THE SOLUTION

The practical solution to today’s educational problem is a Bible-based system of education in which all subjects are studied from a biblical worldview. When children are taught to interpret all that they learn through the eyes of Scripture, and are trained biblically how to apply what they learn, they acquire true knowledge and wisdom and develop a strong godly character.

This, then, is the purpose of this book. Whether your children are in a Christian day school or home school, or whether they are in a government school, this book has been designed to provide Christian parents with a basic biblical understanding of the key areas of learning. Armed with this understanding, parents should be able

to approach their children's school subjects with discernment that can be used to reach and to train their sons and daughters in the correct interpretation and application of what they learn.

Beginning with chapter three, each chapter concentrates on a particular school subject (nine in all) and is divided into two sections: The **Purpose** and the **Points of Emphasis**. The **Purpose** section defines the use of each subject in the plan of God. The **Points of Emphasis** demonstrate either a practical approach to each subject through the use of key questions or a practical application of God's Word to each area of learning. The **Purpose** and **Points of Emphasis** sections have been designed to work hand-in-hand.

If your children are in a Christian day school or home school, this book will help you not only to reinforce what they're already learning, but to add even greater dimension to their studies. On the other hand, if your children are in a government school, this book will help you to compare what they're learning with the Holy Scriptures, which will enable you to more easily identify any errors they are being taught and to contrast these errors with biblical truth. Using the biblical system of comparison and contrast is a powerful teaching tool.

Over and over we hear the words "the decline of the American family." As parents, we must remedy the situation. It is our God-given responsibility.

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