



CHURCH AMBASSADOR NETWORK

AN INITIATIVE OF THE FAMILY LEADER FOUNDATION

Biblical Principles for Education

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

Introduction

In the Church Ambassador Network, a ministry of The FAMILY LEADER Foundation, we hold to the teachings of the Bible that God created government for our good. When government does its job well the people are blessed, and that is exactly what we want to see in the State of Iowa.

Education has served at the heart of the State of Iowa’s strategy to build stronger communities, and it has raised up countless generations of Iowans and has seen excellent success in building better communities for all Iowans. Strong education must continue to serve at the heart of Iowa’s strategy for better communities for tomorrow. Our state is only as strong as our next generation. We need to continue to build an education system that will raise up the next generation of Iowans.

In the Church Ambassador Network, we want to see education that factors in these biblical principles:

1. Parents are primarily responsible for educating their children.

“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 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.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

The Bible teaches that parents are ultimately responsible for their children, and one of the primary responsibilities of parents is teaching and training their children. Parents are responsible to train their children in every area of life for both personal and societal flourishing. Parents have the highest interest in their children’s success, and a community thrives when parents are able to choose the best path for fulfilling the command to educate their children. We need an education system that greatly respects, honors and encourages the parents’ responsibility to educate their own children.

2. Education is designed to start students on the right path for life.

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)

Education is an incredible tool for training the next generation of children. Any education system needs to assist parents in building a foundational path for children to follow for the remainder of life. Our education system must inspire a sense of wonder and a love of learning which will translate into instilling life-skills that equip our children for future success.

3. Government was designed to serve people, not for people to serve government.

“For government is God’s servant for your good.” Romans 13:4.

Government was a gracious gift from God for people. Government is to do you good. Our government must design an education system that is going to serve all people. Government must hold the interests of those it was designed to serve above the interests of the institution.

4. People are both physical and spiritual beings.

“Sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So it is written: The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth and made of dust; the second man is from heaven.” (1 Corinthians 15:44-47)

The Bible teaches that people are both physical and spiritual beings. As a result, people have both spiritual and physical needs. Iowa’s children are no different. If we are to grow the next generation of Iowans, it is imperative that we invest in them both spiritually and physically. We need an education system that factors in both the physical and spiritual needs of a child.

5. Christians are called to better their communities.

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” (Jeremiah 29:7)

God has called Christians to seek the welfare of the city. Schools lie at the center of our cities, as they are raising up the next generation. We cannot seek the welfare of a city without investing in the city’s future. We must build a strong education system that invests in the city’s future interests, as a result preserving the future welfare of the city.

6. God has called us to factor in the needs of the poor.

“For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore, I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’” (Deuteronomy 15:11)

“...if you look with favor on the one wearing the fine clothes and say, ‘Sit here in a good place,’ and yet you say to the poor person, ‘Stand over there,’ or ‘Sit here on the floor by my footstool,’ haven’t you made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?” (James 2:3-4)

Not all of Iowa’s children are growing up in homes with economic means, and many Iowa children are growing up in homes without family infrastructure. As we build an education system, we must factor in all Iowans, including the least among us. Education is one of Iowa youth’s greatest resources in leaving behind poverty. We need an education system that is able to serve children and families that are in financial need, offering them educational opportunities that are presently available only for those in a higher social-economic status