

*Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding...  
(Proverbs 3:13)*

September brings education back to the front of our minds. Parents have to buy school supplies and new clothes for their kids. Children have to say goodbye to the long summer days of roaming their yards and swimming at the pool. Teachers have to get their classrooms ready for the influx of students. Even if you don't have young children or grandchildren, the schedule seems to change one way or another during the school year.

Education has any number of goals. The most obvious is to impart knowledge. From the time they are in preschool, children are already learning letters, numbers, and spelling. All of this builds up to more and more complex knowledge and critical thinking as children make their way through the upper grades. Education also gives children the opportunity to learn about other people – to socialize, to problem solve, and to play (even older kids should have time to play!). One thing many people often forget, though, is that education should be about much more than learning facts. It should be about cultivating and developing a *love* for learning. There is plenty that can get in the way of that, especially when schedules get busy and homework piles up. Even more, though, education for us Christians will always come back to the Lord. Anyone can have knowledge – but wisdom and understanding only come from fearing the Lord. In other words, if I can do advanced calculus; if I can paint like Picasso; if I can hit a ball like Babe Ruth; if I can act and sing like a Broadway star; but I don't have faith in and love of God, what does it all matter in the end?

So – whose job is education? Teachers are obviously on the front lines for most kids. When it comes to faith, people will usually point to pastors or Sunday school teachers. And that's all fine. Where does the buck stop, though? With parents. Whether a child is in a school building or homeschooled, the parents have the responsibility of ensuring their child's growth in knowledge and education. How much more for faith! Pastors can preach and teach all they want, but if the Word isn't being read and taught at home, if parents aren't praying with their children, then it will, more likely than not, all turn out to be for naught.

During this time of year especially, we need to keep teachers in our prayers. We thank God for them and ask Him for a special measure of patience, love, and strength as they educate and care for children for much of each week. We should pray for children as well, that they be given hearts willing to learn and the kindness to give due honor to their teachers. And, as always, we should pray for parents, that their love for their children might never grow weak, and that they take their responsibilities toward their children seriously, especially the responsibility to raise up their children in the fear, love, and trust in the Lord!

-Pastor Squire

“That caring parents, gracious Lord, and faithful teachers find reward in leading these, to whom You call, to find in Christ their all in all.”

(“Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend,” *LSB 866*, v. 3)