



# The True Purpose of True Education



By a misconception of the true nature and object of education, many have been led into **serious** and even **fatal** errors. {CT 49.1}



Our ideas of education take too narrow and too low a range. There is need of a broader scope, a higher aim. True education means more than the pursual of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. **It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come. {Ed 13.1}**



In the highest sense the  
work of education and the  
work of **redemption** are one,  
Ed 30



Having received the faith of the gospel, the next work of the believer is to add to his character virtue, and thus cleanse the heart and prepare the mind for the reception of the **knowledge of God**. This knowledge is the foundation of all true education and of all true service. AA 530



True education means more than taking a certain course of study. It is broad. It includes the harmonious development of all the physical powers and the mental faculties. It **teaches the love and fear of God and is a preparation for the faithful discharge of life's duties.**

{CG 293.1}



Proper education includes  
not only mental discipline,  
but that training which will  
**secure sound morals and  
correct deportment. {CG  
293.2}**



The first great lesson in all  
education is **to know and  
understand the will of God.**

{CG 293.3}



True education is **missionary training**. Every son and daughter of God is called to be a missionary; we are called to the service of God and our fellow men; and **to fit us for this service should be the object of our education.** {MH 395}



Every human being, created in the image of God, is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creator — individuality, power to think and to do. The men in whom this power is developed are the men who bear responsibilities, who are leaders in enterprise, and who influence character.

It is the work of true education **to develop this power, to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought . . . (continues)**



. . . Instead of confining their study to that which men have said or written, let students be directed to the sources of truth, to the vast fields opened for research in nature and revelation. Let them contemplate the great facts of duty and destiny, and the mind will expand and strengthen. Instead of educated weaklings, institutions of learning may send forth men strong to think and to act, men who are masters and not slaves of circumstances, men who possess breadth of mind, clearness of thought, and the courage of their convictions.

{Ed 17.2}



Such an education provides more than mental discipline; it provides more than physical training. It (1) **strengthens the character**, so that truth and uprightness are not sacrificed to selfish desire or worldly ambition. It (2) **fortifies the mind against evil**. Instead of some master passion becoming a power to destroy, every motive and desire are brought into conformity to the great principles of right. As the perfection of His character is dwelt upon, the mind is renewed, and the soul is re-created in the image of God. {Ed 18.1}



**Love**, the basis of creation  
and of redemption, is the  
basis of true education. Ed

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The true object of education is **to restore the image of God in the soul**. Sin has well-nigh obliterated the image of God in man. To bring him back to the perfection in which he was first created is the great object of life. It is the work of parents and teachers, in the education of the youth, to cooperate with the divine purpose. Every faculty, every attribute with which the Creator has endowed us, is to be employed for His glory and for the uplifting of our fellowmen. {EP 433.3}



In all your teaching never forget that the greatest lesson to be taught and to be learned is the lesson of **copartnership with Christ in the work of salvation**. The education to be secured by searching the Scriptures is an **experimental knowledge of the plan of salvation**. Such an education will restore the image of God in the soul. It will strengthen and fortify the mind against temptation and fit the learner to become a worker with Christ in His mission of mercy to the world. It will make him a member of the heavenly family, prepare him to share the inheritance of the saints in light. {CT 434.3}



The great object of education  
is to **enable us to** use the  
power which God has given  
us in such a manner as to  
**represent the religion of the  
Bible and promote the  
glory of God. {CT 361.1}**



# God's Original Plan for Education



# God's Original Plan

The system of education established in Eden centered in the family. Adam was “the son of God” (Luke 3:38), and it was from their Father that the children of the Highest received instruction. Theirs, in the truest sense, was a family school. {Ed 33.1}

In the divine plan of education as adapted to man's condition after the Fall, Christ stands as the representative of the Father, the connecting link between God and man; He is the great teacher of mankind. And He ordained that men and women should be His representatives. The family was the school, and the parents were the teachers. {Ed 33.2}



# God's Original Plan

- The child Jesus did not receive instruction in the synagogue schools. His mother was His first human teacher. From her lips and from the scrolls of the prophets, He learned of heavenly things. — DA 70.





Our School's  
Ordained by God



# Our Schools Ordained by God

Wherever in Israel God's plan of education was carried into effect, its results testified of its Author. But in very many households the training appointed by Heaven, and the characters thus developed, were alike rare. God's plan was but partially and imperfectly fulfilled. By unbelief and by disregard of the Lord's directions, the Israelites surrounded themselves with temptations that few had power to resist. . . . Fathers and mothers in Israel became indifferent to their obligation to God, indifferent to their obligation to their children. Through unfaithfulness in the home, and idolatrous influences without, many of the Hebrew youth received an education differing widely from that which God had planned for them. They learned the ways of the heathen. {Ed 45.1}



# Our Schools Ordained by God

To meet this growing evil, God provided other agencies as an aid to parents in the work of education. From the earliest times, prophets had been recognized as teachers divinely appointed. In the highest sense the prophet was one who spoke by direct inspiration, communicating to the people the messages he had received from God. But the name was given also to those who, though not so directly inspired, were divinely called to instruct the people in the works and ways of God. For the training of such a class of teachers, Samuel, by the Lord's direction, established the schools of the prophets. {Ed 46.1}



# Our Schools Ordained by God

He will open ways before us to establish small schools in retired places for the education of our youth, not only in the Scriptures and in book learnings, but in many lines of manual labor. The necessity of establishing such schools is urged upon me very strongly because of the cruel neglect of many parents properly to educate their children in the home. CT 204



# Our Schools Ordained by God

As long as time shall last, we shall have  
need of schools. CT 417



# Our Schools Ordained by God

When heavenly intelligences see that men are no longer permitted to present the truth, the Spirit of God will come upon the children, and they will do a work in the proclamation of the truth which the older workers cannot do because their way will be hedged up . . .



# Our Schools Ordained by God

In the closing scenes of this earth's history many of these children and youth will astonish people by their witness to the truth, which will be borne in simplicity, yet with spirit and power. They have been taught the fear of the Lord, and their hearts have been softened by a careful and prayerful study of the Bible. In the near future many children will be endowed with the Spirit of God and will do a work in proclaiming the truth to the world that at that time cannot well be done by the older members of the church . . .



# Our Schools Ordained by God

**Our church schools are ordained by God to prepare the children for this great work.** Here children are to be instructed in the special truths for this time and in practical missionary work. They are to enlist in the army of workers to help the sick and the suffering. Children can take part in the medical missionary work and by their jots and tittles can help to carry it forward.... By them God's message will be made known and His saving health to all nations. Then let the church carry a burden for the lambs of the flock. Let the children be educated and trained to do service for God. AH 489



# Resources

- Education, E. G. White
- Fundamentals of Christian Education, E. G. White
- Counsels to Parents Teachers and Students, E. G. White
- Child Guidance, E. G. White
- Counsels on Education, E. G. White (from testimonies)
- Classroom of the Remnant, by Joshua White  
[www.athinkinggeneration.org](http://www.athinkinggeneration.org)



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