ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

NEW AGE FOR DISTANCE LEARNING

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND HUMAN STUDIES

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**Introduction**

Right from my childhood, I heard from people that education, which is the acquisition of

useful knowledge is an essential asset one can gain from the parents.

I was made to understand that education is an impartation of the requisite knowledge, and

is one of the fundamental ingredients needed in human development because, it begins in

the womb and spans from birth through early childhood, teenage and adolescence stages to

adulthood.

Without this essential ingredient, there shall be an experience of imbalance growth in

human’s life.

when growing, I was gingered up to embrace the fact that education in general must be

pursued in earnest and with excitement in life.

It is against this background many notable scholars have come up with some thought

provoking quotations to help buttress its importance as lucidly stated below:

i. “Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world’’ - Nelson

Mandela

ii. ‘’Education is our passport to the future for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare

for it today. - Malcolm X

iii. “The educated differ from the uneducated as much as the living differ from the dead.” –

Aristotle

iv. “Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to

with diligence.” - Abigail Adams

v. “The advancement and diffusion or dissemination of knowledge is the only guardian of

true liberty.’’ – James Madison

vi. ‘’Liberty without learning is always in peril and learning without liberty is always in vain.’’

– John Kennedy

vii. ‘’Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance.’’ - Will Durant

viii. “Education is to comprehend all that series of instruction and discipline which is

intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, form the manners and habits

of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future stations.’’ – Noah Webster

***This definition by Webster is itself a demonstration of the chief aim of Christian education***

***– a biblical world view.***

Apostle Paul, on his admonition on the value and authenticity of Scripture, reveals that ‘’All

Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for correction, for reproof, for

training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be adequately equipped for every

good work.’’ (2Timothy 3:16-17)

These few quotations buttress the importance that is attached to education in general.

As a reverend minister, it is incumbent on me to endeavor to delve into the course so as to

become well versed in its nitty gritty to enable me to apprehend its importance, firstly apply

it in my life so that I would be in a position to teach people in my area of jurisdiction. This

would go a long way also to engender the required growth in a Christian’s daily life. These

and many more would be unearthed based on the objectives.

**Objectives**

Is to study to acquaint myself with what Christian Education is, what Christian character

development offers, what Academic Excellence is, the requirement of Christian Education

and the Principal approach.

The following would be dilated as the contents of the study:

**CONTENTS**

1. The definition of Christian Education

2. The background of Christian Education

3. The Goal of Christian Education

4. Foundation of Christian Education

5. Why Christian Character Development?

6. Explain Academic Excellence in Christian Education

7. Requirements of Christian Education

8. The Purpose of Principal Approach of Christian Education

9. The objectives of Christian Education with regard to the child

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**1. The Definitions of Christian Education**

‘’Is the apprehension of all the series of instruction and discipline intended to enlighten the

understanding, correct the temper, form the manners and habits of people, and fit them for

usefulness in their future life and endeavors as Christians.’’ (Noah Webster-2004)

‘’Is the effort to make available for our generation – children, young people, and adults the

accumulated treasures of Christian life and thought, in such a way that God in Christ may

carry on His redemptive work in each human soul and in the common life of man.’’

(Randolph Crump Miller, 1963)

‘’To be a *Christian*, Christian Education must have God’s esteem for human being, sense the

task to be a whole-life experience of growth and maturity, and give opportunity for service

through experiential action.’’ (Mark Lamport, 1988)

‘’Theology is crucial to Christian Education. Often Christian Education has been accused of

drifting far from orthodox theological teaching, particularly in regard to the Christian view of

human nature and spiritual growth. This drifting is unfortunate, for Christian Education is

lost unless grounded in biblically based teaching. No matter how much zeal a Christian

educator may have, it is of little use without an awareness of the essential theological

underpinning or basis of the faith.’’ (Jim Wilhoit, 1986)

‘’Christian Education invites young people to see and comprehend the universe through the

perspective of God’s truth. The Bible becomes the lens in which the students view and

comprehend what they are learning. This lens focusses their thinking on ultimate truth-a

biblical vision for life where the world is created and sustained by God; where God has acted

in history to deal with the distortions of creation caused by human rebellion; and where

history is advancing toward a new creation in which all things are reconciled to God through

Jesus who is not only the climax of the biblical story but is also the focal point of the lens.’’

(http://www.christianeducation.cen.edu.au)

“Christian Education can mean different things to different educators. It is more than just

biblical knowledge. Its’ about allowing Christ to be formed in you through the power of the

Holy Spirit.” (Mark Virkler, Christian Leadership University, 2014)

What seems evident in these definitions is the Christian Education which is firmly based on

Christian theology. There cannot be a proper Christian Education without Christian

theology.

Let me set the ball rolling by tackling the chronicled above contents.

2. **The Background of Christian Education**

Clearly, there is no picture as to the background but there are instructions given in the Bible

which can be leveraged as background. Some of the notable scriptures are as follows:

‘’My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is *formed* in you.’’ Galatians

4:19.

This verse which talks about *formation* of Christ in a believer comes from the Holy Spirit

through the teaching of the Word of God. The teaching of the word after new birth helps

form Christ in the life of the one who has believed in Christ Jesus. It authenticates the proof

of Christianity in one’s life. it is about forming everything about Christ Jesus in one’s life.

In the Old Testament, for the Israelites to form godliness in their children, they were asked

to teach them the Word of God.

‘’Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your

eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach

them to your children and your grandchildren, especially concerning the day you stood

before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, ‘’Gather the people to Me,

and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on

the earth, and that they may teach their children.’’ (Deuteronomy 4:9-10)

‘’And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them

diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk

by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.’’ (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

These verses speak about training children both through teaching and exemplary life.

The teachers being the parents can only provide this example when they have their own

deep and personal relationship with God.

‘’If parents are in close relationship with God, then their home is more likely to be peaceful,

stable, and God centered.’’ (Billy Graham Training Center Study Bible)

Children raised in this kind of environment can see what God is truly like, and have the

opportunity to develop their own personal relationship with Him.

The book of Proverbs also buttresses the point by urging the parents to raise their children

up in God’s way: ‘’Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not

depart from it.’’ (Proverbs 22:6)

Proper training results in positive habits that can last a life time. Helping your children to

learn about God calls for making provision an atmosphere that encourages their spiritual

development.

Parents have a great responsibility to teach their children the Word of God and how to

please Him.

‘’As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart

and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of

the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast

you off forever.’’ (1Chronicles 28:9)

King David enjoined his son Solomon, to seek the God of his father (David), who chose him

from the place of ashes to a place of prominence. This is what we call exemplary life.

So the background of Christian Education is the teacher whose life style is tailored toward

the Word of God, and the teaching of the Word of God to help *form Christ Jesus* in people

“Knowing how to allow Christ to be formed in us and how to act as Christ would what

Christian Education is all about.’’ (Mark Virkler, 2014)

**3. The Goal of Christian Education**

What the Christian Education intends to achieve is the development of a biblical worldview.

The Bible is the principal source for all learning. Acquisition of knowledge takes its source

from the Bible, for it provides genuine principles, the foundation from which the student or

learner can effectively reason to every subject in the area of life.

The Bible says, ‘’And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the

renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and

perfect and acceptable.’’ (Romans 12:2)

Knowledge of biblical principles is totally and definitely essential to evolve apprehension

and wisdom.

‘’We do not do this only to gain head knowledge, we need our heart to be transformed, and

this happens through a spiritual formation of wanting to be like Christ, knowing how Christ

would act, and then acting likewise.’’ (Mark Virkler, 2014)

**4. The Foundation of Christian Education**

The Christian Education takes its stand from the Bible or Scripture according to the letter of

Apostle Paul to his spiritual son, Timothy, concerning the value and authenticity of

Scripture. It discloses that, ‘’All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for

correction, for reproof, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be

adequate, thoroughly equipped for every good work.’’ (2Timothy 3:16-17)

Apostle Paul in his earlier instruction, urged Timothy to study the Scripture to show himself

approved to God, as a worker who needs not to be ashamed, but can rightly divide the word

of truth. (2Timothy 2:15)

Again, Apostle Paul advised Timothy to continually live in the things that he had learned and

been assured of, knowing definitely from whom he had learned them, because from

childhood he had known the Holy Scriptures which has the potential to make him wise for

salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (2Timothy 3;14-15)

These instructions and definitions reveal the very heart of education, and help form the

foundation for Christian Education.

The Bible is the fundamental source for all learning because, it helps provide the principles

of truth, the bedrock from which the learner can reason to every subject in the area of life.

It provides the required wisdom and knowledge.

Biblical knowledge acquired from its principles is very important and needed for developing

understanding and wisdom, which eventually gives rise to the high orders of learning and

application in any giving subject.

**5. Why Christian Character Development**?

Christian character development is of extreme important, and needful for it is fundamental

in the education process.

It has been realized that, education works from the internal to the external because, it

works primarily on the heart of man to regenerate it, and renew his mind, so as to

eventually walk in a manner worthy of his calling. Christ offered him opportunity by opening

the door way into the kingdom of God.

The sanctification process that is experienced takes place in the character realm first and

foremost, and it becomes a lifelong progression. Permanent external transformation and

steady growth come only by way of *internal character growth.*

In the event of difficulties in his Christian life, he glories in it, knowing that difficulty or

tribulation produces perseverance, and perseverance produces character, and character

produces hope. (Romans 5:4)

**6. Explain Academic Excellence in Christian Education**

Academic Excellence is an expression of worship of Almighty God.

The psalmist said, ‘’Great are the works of the Lord. They are studied by all who delight in

them.’’ (Psalm 111:2) This is an expression of appreciation of the works of the Lord.

As the bedrock in Christian Character is being laid, the academic ability of the student is

addressed and developed. Each student is an expression of God’s principle of individuality.

He is observed as an individual created in God’s image, unique and possessing certain gifts

and qualities that set him apart from all others.

As his strengths and weaknesses are identified, the education process both affirms and

stretches him, calling him up to excellence in every area of life so that he may effectively

exert Christian influence in his life spheres.

**7. The requirements of Christian Education**

Christian Education comprises three fundamental components: **Philosophy, Curriculum,**

**and Methodology.**

Likewise, each and every subject that is studied has a unique philosophy (presuppositional

truths), Curriculum (content) and Methodology (application).

Philosophy gives rise to both the curriculum and the methods used in studying (teaching

and learning). It is the relationship of these three components that provide both the means

and the ends for mastering a given subject or topic.

The detail explanation of the three fundamental components are as follows:

**Philosophy**

Philosophy is the controller of our thoughts and actions. It gets to the heart of who we are,

what we believe and why we believe it. It closely relates to ‘’worldview.’’ One’s philosophy

of life is affected by his or her world view and at the same time affects it. There are several

philosophies or beliefs which are seductive in the manner they capture the mind and

produce outcomes that would otherwise be discarded.

Scripture clearly cautions believers to be circumspect of ‘’vain philosophies’’ that are

fashioned after the rudiments of the world rather than of Christ. A Christian philosophy of

life is also term a biblical world view.

A philosophy of Education is a philosophy of government, for it governs or controls the

character and the skill of the rising generation. As to whether a Christian civilization will

stand and endure will depends largely on the philosophy of education that prepares those

who will lead. The importance of building a Christian philosophy of education cannot be

exaggerated for parents, teachers, and students alike.

From the earliest years, parents and teachers make it a point to train the philosophy of life

that a child will take into adulthood. Most of the time, a person’s actions uncover an

underlying philosophy more readily than his discourse.

**Curriculum**

The curriculum is the course of study embarked upon by a student. It has an underlying

philosophy, which is revealed by the subject studied, and the facts or concepts to be

mastered. The goal of any curriculum should gear toward the discovery of truth.

A Christian curriculum is designed to help search all things for the knowledge and wisdom of

God. ‘’Great are the works of the Lord; they are studied by all who delight in them.’’ (Psalm

111:2)

*The following on curriculum should be observed:*

i. A curriculum should be lively and appropriate to the needs of the student, as well as

to the needs of the community as a whole.

ii. Caution must be taken to evolve a Christian curriculum which has its base on the

research and reasoning of the teacher who has mastered the subject from a biblical

perspective or position.

iii. A curriculum must be academically sound and based upon truth, not on partiality

or biased points of view. The scope of the curriculum is the breadth and depth of the

content to be studied. The scope should always be age-ability-appropriate, while

providing the challenge needed to stretch the able mind.

iv. The sequence of the curriculum should build from elementary knowledge and

understanding to more advanced concepts and applications in a logical progression.

The required skills and concepts must be in place before introducing new material.

v. The scope and the sequence of any subject are established both within each grade

levels in the school. The validity of each must be verified.

vi. The goal of every curriculum is to attain mastery of the subject within the context of

a biblical world view or position.

**Methodology**

A Christian Education that is not dwelt on a Christian curriculum and a Christian method of

teaching is likely to fall short of its objective to build a biblical world view or position into

the student.

One’s view of God, humanity, the heart and mind, and the child has everything to do with

how one practices the art and science of teaching. Teachers can deny the effect of a

Christian philosophy and curriculum by going for secular humanistic practices in the

classroom that are devoted to behaviorism (psychology) and the theory of evolution.

*The following on methodology should be observed:*

i. Teaching, first and foremost is a relationship. The teacher-student relationship dwells on

love and is crowned with mutual respect. “But the good of our instruction is love from a

pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.’’ (1Timothy 1:5)

ii. The teacher is seen as a living curriculum before the students. ‘’A student is not above his

or her teacher; but everyone, after he or she has fully trained, will be like his or her

teacher.’’ (Luke 5:40)

iii. Discipline and order play major roles in the efficiency and effectiveness of the teaching-

learning cycle.

iv. Teachers must stay current with teaching-learning theories while maintaining a biblical

filter through which to qualify them. ‘’All truth is God’s truth.’’

v. the Christian idea of child recognizes the inherent value of each individual as well as his

uniqueness. Teachers recognize these personality and learning style differences and adapt

their teaching methods so that every student has the opportunity to grow to his full

potential.

**8. The Purpose of the Principal Approach of Christian Education**

The Principle Approach is a systematic, Christian approach to education that builds upon a

classical curriculum and is thoroughly biblical in its philosophy and application.

The Principle Approach begins with the assumption that all things i.e. truth, knowledge,

matter, the universe itself are held together by biblical principles, i.e. the Word of God.

(John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16-17)

These principle (laws) govern every subject, determining how each operates and should be

used by man to fulfill God’s mandate to subdue the earth. Principles are seen as seeds that

contain all the basic information needed in a given subject to solve any problem or answer

any question. Biblical principles do not provide content material in a given subject , but

function as governing forces that guide the student along a path of biblical reasoning that

results in godly wisdom.

*Its purpose is to provide an excellent biblical and historical model of Christian Education.*

A typical example is a group of pilgrims who landed on the shores of

North America barely four hundred years ago for the glory of God and advancement of the

Christian faith. It was as a result of their highly developed sense of Christian character and

their commitment to excellence in every aspect of life that the foundation of a civil

government based on biblical principles was laid. During the two hundred years that

followed, a republic was formed that grew into the greatest nation the world has ever

known . Primary among several reasons for this success was the prevailing method of

education at the time (The Principle Approach).

If this nation or any other nation, desires to continue to grow and prosper, much will

depend on the character of its people and the values they hold dear and on how well both

are passed on to succeeding generations.

The Principle Approach is a modern appellation for the American colonial model of

education.

**Philosophical Distinctives of the Principle Approach**

**i.** The Word of God is recognized as the ‘’Alpha and Omega” of Truth and becomes the

plumb-line against which all ideas, concepts, and facts are measured for veracity(Truth).

**ii.** The foundational principles of the Bible provide a bond that unites each subject from

within and relates all subjects together from within and relates all subject together from

without.

**iii.** God is the Source of all things. God’s principle of individuality, as demonstrated by His

Holiness and the infinite expression of His creativity is the framework for understanding all

of life and learning. The uniqueness of each individual within the diversity of the human

race is a reflection of God’s own character and nature.

**iv.** The individuality of each subject is expressed by examining its biblical origin and purpose,

its basic concepts, its particular vocabulary, and its historical development. This study

provides a deeper understanding of God’s character and nature and clarifies man’s duty to

use this knowledge responsibly to fulfill the first and second great commissions. (Genesis

1:28; Matthew 28:19-20)

**vi.** The teacher, the parents, and students enter into a covenant relationship, while at the

same time, the individuality of each is respected and preserved. (Ephesians 6:1-2; Luke

6:40)

**vii.** The learning process is reflective, promoting sound, logical reasoning and intuitive

thinking on the part of the learner from a biblical Christian perspective. (Isaiah 1:18; 28:9-10)

**viii**. Teachers and students produce ideas and works that express creativity, value and

meaning, contribute to the general good, and are pleasing to God, rather than simply

consume materials and, or absorb the ideas of others. (2Timothy 2:20-21; 3:16-17)

**9. The objectives of Christian Education with regard to a child**

As touched on in the previous chapters, particularly in chapter two, where the Lord insisted

that the parents should make it a daily responsibility to teach their children everything

shown to them so that the children will not depart from them when they grow (Proverbs

22:6), the Christian Education’s objectives *address the whole Child*, endeavoring to infuse

into the child everything about God.

In my church, as soon as the child is born, the parents would bring him to the priest to be

pray for and dedicate him as well to the Lord.

Then the parents would take it from there to infuse the values and the principles of the

kingdom of God into the baby by the teaching of the word of God.

This precisely is what the Christian Education seems to be doing for the child.

The Christian Education endeavors to tackle the spiritual, academic, social and the physical

aspects or growth of the child. These will help provide a solid foundation for the child to

grow to become the person God wants him to be.

So let walk through the various levels of the child:

a. **Spiritual**

Spiritually, the child is given instruction, opportunity, and modeling in:

i. Loving God

ii. Loving his neighbors

iii. Developing a prayer life

iv. Rightly dividing the Word of God

v. Reasoning from the principles of God’s Word to all of his life

vi. Owning and articulating a biblical Christian world view

vii. Embracing the Great Commission

viii. Walking in the purity of thought and action

ix. Identifying with a local church

b. **Academic**

Academically, the child is given instructions, opportunity, and modeling so as to:

i. Be equipped to be well-rounded (many-sided) liberal and education

ii. Attain excellence in scholarship in the various subject areas

iii. Think critically, from cause to effect

iv. Study effectively

v. Be fit for usefulness in his future station, whether in college or in a vocation

vi. Be able to articulate or communicate thoughts and persuade others

vii. Understand world cultures

viii. Exhibit technological savvy or knowledge

c. **Social**

Socially, the child is given instruction, opportunity and modeling so as to produce and

promote:

i. The fruit of the Spirit

ii. Modesty

iii. Diplomacy in dealing with others

iv. Civility and good manners

v. A giving heart

vi. Respectfulness, compassion, and helpfulness toward others

vii. Honoring of parents and others in authority

viii. The biblical standard of heterosexuality; the biblical injunction against homosexuality

ix. The biblical view that marriage is between one man and one woman and is sacred

x. Global awareness in view of the world

xi. Sensitivity to cultural and ethnic diversity

xii. Active support of the school as an alumnus

xiii. Patriotism and good citizenship

d. **Physical**

Physically, he is provided instruction, opportunity and modeling so as to:

i. Maintain a healthy and fit body

ii. Treat his body as the temple of the Holy Spirit

iii. Be well groomed and modest in presentation

iv. Disciplined in healthy life-habits

v. Remain sexually pure according to biblical standards.

**10. Education in some of the books of the Bible**

We now take a glimpse of the education in the Bible to establish the importance of the

course.

**Pentateuch**

The first five books of the Old Testament considered as unit (Laws, Torah).

***Centricity of Jehovah***

*Education for the early Hebrews focused on learning about God*. The Bible opening

statement leaves no room for flexibility regarding its main topic (Genesis 1:1).

God controls the events in the lives of His people: He initiated the covenants and law; He

raised up leaders to instruct His people with regard to personal and corporate

righteousness. And when a generation failed to follow God’s truth, turmoil unavoidable

followed (Exodus 1; Judges 2:10-5).

It has always to be remembered that *Jewish education was entirely religious education.*

There was no text-book except the Scriptures; all primary education was a preparation for

reading the Law; and all higher education was the reading and the study of it….. Josephus

says of Moses: ‘’He commanded to instruct children in the elements of

knowledge (grammata), to teach them to walk according to the laws, and to know the deeds

of their forefathers.” (William Barclay’s Educational ideals in the ancient World, 1984)

***Absolute truth***

Long before written portions of the Scripture were circulated, God’s people viewed His

*Word through His anointed servants as absolute.*

**Noah** proclaimed the coming Flood, and his family entered the ark (Genesis 6-7).

**Abraham** announced his vision from the Lord, and a nation came into being (Genesis 12-24).

**Moses** thundered down from mountain Sinai and the Law was given (Exodus 19-20).

**The Pentateuch** allows no room for discussions of interpretation, no flexibility for different

viewpoints. *When God speaks, His people respond*.

Evangelical education retains its commitment to absolute truth, namely, *that truth*

*throughout Holy Scriptures is not subject to change.*

In a world that almost universally considers truth relative (subject to change and revision),

*Christian Educators affirm the Centrality of Absolute Truth.*

***Focusing on the Family***

*Well-versed Christian Educators understand the significance of the family in teaching*, but

not often do we see covenant continuing more dramatically displayed than in the early

books of the Old Testament. A treatment of Deuteronomy 29:29, “The secret things belong

to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that

we may follow all the words of this law.’’ Earlier in the chapter Moses stands before all the

Israelites and reminds them one final time that the Covenant of God is with the nation, but

the nation is represented by its families (Deuteronomy 29;9-15; Psalm 78:1-8; Proverbs 4:3-

4, 10, 20-22).

Again, Barclay emphasizes that in addition to focus on God, the center of education among

the Jews was the *home*, ‘*’and the responsibility of teaching the child is something that the*

*parent cannot evade or avoid, if he is to satisfy the law of God.’’*

***The teaching task***

The Hebrew word for teach (***tamad***) is translated in the Septuagint (oldest Greek version of

O.T) by the word ***didasko***, which occurs about on hundred times. This is found most often in

Psalms, Deuteronomy, and Jeremiah. Old Testament usage does not primarily indicate the

communication of knowledge and skills but rather centers on how one’s life ought to be

lived (Deuteronomy 11:19: 20:18). Deuteronomy 6:1-9 introduces a portion of Scripture

dear to the hearts of many Christians Educators. Moses reminded his people that, ‘’God

directed me to teach you’’ and showed again how teaching takes place in the ***matrix*** of the

family.

***Servanthood***

Though evolved to a greater dimension in the New Testament, the original or germinal idea

of serving God begins early in the text of Scripture. Adam and Eve served God by taking care

of His creation. The heroes of the first five books of the Bible are shown at their best as the

servants of Jehovah.

***Jim Wilhoit*** sees in this as a call to a special kind of Christian Education: The focus of God’s

concern was on action. He emphasized that, Christian Education must teach not just

knowledge or skills but service of God through responsible action (Wilhoit p.21).

**Education in the Historical books**

In the historical books little new truth emerges with regard to the teaching-learning

processes of God’s people. All the stuffs or elements evolved in the Torah (Pentateuch) are

maintained to a greater or lesser dimension, but now different kinds of teachers appear.

Judges rule and Prophets proclaim. Eli teaches Samuel who in turn teaches Israel’s first two

kings.

Old Testament patterns used begun in the books of Torah and carried on into the historical

books are nicely penned in The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology in

a summary manner:

‘’How then does the Education of the young proceed in Israel? God commands that they

obey their parents as next to Him in importance. The father acts like a priest to the family.

He hands on the tradition to the family; he does so in answer to the question of his children

(Exodus 12:26f.), and his answer is a confession of God’s saving activity toward Israel. The

children are told of this not only in words, but also by means of impressive signs in the form

of monumental stones (Joshua 4:6f.,21ff.).’’

**Education in wisdom Literature**

In the wisdom literature the indulgence in moral pronouncements or exposition of a moral

code (moralizing) and being humane, kind, or gentle (humanizing) were the general

direction or trend in education not only continues but also expands.

The focus changes, and prevailing lifestyle emerges. This change is seen devotionally in

Psalms and practically in Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

**Wisdom**

Educational ideas have not been developed in Israel, but the point of reference continues to

be God and His revelation. In an appropriate manner, three-fifths of the references to

wisdom appear in the wisdom literature. *Sophia*, the Greek word for wisdom though may

*mean skill in art or craft, economic shrewdness, or governmental ability,* most often reflects

the godly behavior that enables one to master life (Proverbs 8:32-36). Wisdom takes on a

personal meaning as the mediator of revelation (Proverbs 8:1-21) who invites people to

learn (Proverbs 1:20; 8:32; 9:1).

***Instruction***

We observe in vain for the widespread usage of *didaskalia* from the Septuagint in the

wisdom literature, for it appears only in Proverbs 2:17 in reference to the law considered as

the will of God. *Katechesis* and *paradidomi*, the New Testament Greek words used for

instruction, are not in the Old Testament. However, the Hebrew word *musar* rises to great

importance since it appears thirty times in the book of Proverbs, usually emphasizing

discipline but most often translated as ‘’instruction,’’ the same as wisdom throughout this

portion of the Old Testament.

***Physical Discipline***

Of great concern to the Christian educators is the role of discipline in preparing disciples.

The New Testament makes a clear difference between *discipline and punishment* (Hebrews

12:4-13), but this difference is inadequately defined in the Old Testament. The book of

Proverbs introduces the dimension of physical correction, not hitherto observed as a part of

the Old Testament instructional process (Proverbs 13:24; 17:10; 22:15; 29:15,17).

**Education in the Prophets**

Just as the Prophet Isaiah opens, the Bible reader experiences something of a first-time

experience with the earlier historical books. A nation that had been taught by God and given

His truth for its individual and corporate life now faced national judgment and temporary

forgotten due to the fact that it had done away or rejected God’s teaching. Isaiah groaned

and therefore demonstrated his contentment by saying, ‘’The ox knows his master, the

donkey his owner’s manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand’’

(Isaiah 1:3). Prophet served as teachers in Israel both before, during, and after the exile.

In Jeremiah 8:8 we learn of the role of the scribes, the professional class of teachers in Israel

whose task it was to preserve the written and oral traditions of the nation.

They became copyists (making written copies of documents and manuscripts), editors

(responsible for editorial aspects of publication), and interpreters of God’s truth (and man’s

fallible interpretation thereof). We have earlier note the impact of Ezra.

***A. Elwood Sanner*** *suggests that the scribes provide us with ancient historical background*

*for varied methodology in teaching (A. Elwood Sanner-Exploring Christian Education, 1978).*

The teaching methods of the scribes included *Public discussions, Questions and Answers,*

*Memorization, The exact verbal reproduction of the teacher’s words, Stories, Oral laws,*

*Precepts, Proverbs, Epigrams (a witty saying which conveys insults or scorn), Parables,*

*Beatitudes, and Allegories.*

After the darkness of EXILE and the strange SILENCE of the intertestamental period, the

stage was set for the dramatic coming of Jesus Christ into human history.

God in His unsearchable wisdom chose earth to be “the visit planet,’’ and genuinely

Christian Education, as we attempt to understand and practice it today, *was initiated at the*

*coming of Jesus Christ*, the incarnate Son. What Prophet Isaiah prophesied concerning

Zebulun and Naphtali can be said of all those who saw His arrival: *The people living in*

*darkness have seen a great Light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light*

*has dawned’’* (Matthew 4:16).

**Education in the Gospels**

The fact that Christian Education must be biblical is exactly what makes it Christian.

And to be wholly biblical, it must take a center stage or must center in Christ. Students who

are eager to hold firmly the theological and philosophical foundations of Christian Education

must master various passages in the New Testament that evolve those concepts.

***The example of Jesus Christ***

The presence and power of Jesus the Son of God dominate the gospel books in the New

Testament: Christ’s incarnation, Crucifixion, and Resurrection are crucial, of course, but His

role as modeling or mentoring as Master Teacher has given the Christian Educators a keen

demonstration for almost two thousand years.

Forty-five times the gospels call Jesus ‘’teacher.’’

Fourteen times they referred to Him as ‘’rabbi.’’

Howard Hendricks contributed by saying that, ‘’No one could ever accuse Jesus of an

incomplete education philosophy. He apprehended that all learning involves a process. He

not only knew what He was to teach, but He knew how to teach.

Learning was more than listening; teaching more than telling. How did Jesus become so

effective without bells and schedules, a fixed classroom, and an overhead projector of

flannelgraph?’’ (The Christian Education Handbook on Teaching, 1988), p.25

**The Authority of Jesus Christ**

‘’When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at His *teaching,*

because *He taught as one who had authority*, and not as their teachers in law’’ (Matthew

7:28-29).

Christians contend the significance of Matthew 16:19 and the catchy phrase ‘’keys of the

Kingdom.’’ But Jews have most of the time referred this to the *office of a teacher*. Jesus

called His followers to a higher righteousness and *to carry through His calling as a teacher.*

***Lesson***

It has been unraveled out and learned that education in general is very important because it

makes one a balance person in life.

Christian Education dwells on the word of God which enlightens the understanding, correct

the temper, form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their

future stations. The goal of the Christian Education is the development of a biblical world

view, and academic excellence is an expression of worship of Almighty God.

The few books of the Bible dilated on, have clearly demonstrated the fact that Education

concept was accepted even before the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This assertion underpins the fact that Christian Education is of extreme importance for it did

not originate with us in our time, it was from time immemorial.

The five first books of the Bible focused on the centricity of Jehovah. The Jewish learned

about God. The Jewish education was entirely religious education. It was firmly based on

Scripture which was the absolute truth.

The teachers were tasked to ensure that their teaching would center on how one’s life

ought to be lived.

Little new truth emerged with regard to the teaching-learning processes of God’s people

about Education in the historic books. All the elements were centered on the Pentateuch or

the Torah.

In wisdom literature, indulgence on moral code or morality, and being humane – kind or

gentle were the general trend or dimension in education.

In the prophets, it was realized that, the prophets served as teachers in Israel before, during

and after the exile.

In the Gospels, what consolidates the point or the fact that this concept of education

belongs to the Christians is the fact that, it is firmly based on the Bible. Jesus Christ is the

main focus. There are various passages that are mastered by the students to help develop

and embrace this concept.

***Personal Experience***

As a reverend ministers, having gone through Christian Education, and still going through,

attest to the fact that Christian Education is the supposedly antidote to some of the mess

that the world is experiencing in our time.

Christian Education is very crucial and needed by all, particularly the youth of today, taking

into consideration the vices being indulged in an alarming rate in our generation which

sometimes are being perpetuated by the youth in the other part of the world.

It looks like godliness or righteousness that exalts the nations are relegated to the

background.

Unfortunately, the Christian population globally has not done enough to avert this

unfortunate plight because of their involvement.

In view of this, Christian Education must be embraced and also intensified to get people

back to the Word of God that has the power to cause a transformation, and also infuse the

knowledge of God in their lives for the better.

It is against this background, the leadership of my church has a various categories of Bible

Study Classes: The Children’s Ministry Bible Study Class with well equipped teachers to help

the children to know and be rooted in the Word of God as written in Proverbs 22:6, ‘’Train

up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old will not depart from it.’’

This helps the church for ‘’Christ Formation’’ business.

One very significant purpose also is that, these children are the people who will someday

take up the leadership positions in the church.

We have also the Youth Ministry with their well-versed leaders in the Word of God, and also

the current issues bothering the youth of today. The leaders teach them so as to be

grounded in the Word of God so that the enemy cannot capitalize on their ignorance to

derail them from the path of God.

In addition, is the Bible Study Class for the Adults with their well-trained leaders to facilitate,

and also strengthen their growth in the Word of God.

In the Christian community or the church today, it is realized that the few Christians who

have had Christian Education are the ones who have devoted themselves to showcase the

life of Christ Jesus, and are also well-versed in the Word of God. They are the people who

have experienced the ‘’formation of Christ Jesus’’ within them.

May the Lord help us to embrace Christian Education globally so as to experience the life of

Christ Jesus.

**Conclusion**

The study has afforded me the opportunity to acquaint myself with the importance of

Christian Education as its nitty-gritty has been unraveled out .

My objectives for undertaking this study, being to unearth the various definitions, the

background, the goal which is the development of a biblical world view, Christian character

development which is primary in the education process, the academic excellence denoting

the worship of the Almighty God, have been duly achieved.

Also, what Christian Education requires, being Christian Philosophy, Curriculum and

Methodology are discovered and thoroughly discussed.

The Christian Education in some of the books of the Bible is uncovered and duly discussed.

It has been established that the concept of education or Christian Education was embraced

even before the birth of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ, being the source of all wisdom and

knowledge came to consolidate the concept by taken upon Himself to teach the Word of

God to help affirm the teaching ministry of the prophets, the scribes and others who were

there before Him. He was seen as a Great Teacher who teaches with power.

I would therefore not hesitate to recomend this course to my fellow ministers of God and

people who are eager to study because of its impact.

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