The Biblical Classical Homeschool Experience™

The Philosophy

EXPANDED (D)

The Biblical Classical Approach

The Homeschool Lifestyle

What About "School"?

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The Homeschool Lifestyle: What About "School"?

The Philosophy Expanded (D)

We already know that homeschooling is different than the manmade construct of "traditional schools". And in our last lesson, The Philosophy Expanded C, Education: God's Design, we focused on internalizing the truths of Deuteronomy 6:7.

In this lesson, we're going to grow further in our understanding of the Biblical Classical Approach homeschool lifestyle.

There are some ***lovely*** and true thoughts about school that I want to share with you.

Have your highlighter ready and with it illuminate what stands out to you in the definitions.

Isaiah 54:13 teaches us:

> And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children.
>
> (KJV)

Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines *taught* as:

> TAUGHT, adjective taut. [from the root of tight.] Stretched; not slack.
>
> TAUGHT, preterit tense and participle passive of teach. pronoun taut. [Latin doctus.] Experience taught him wisdom. He has been taught in the school of experience.

Now, we're going to examine the Key Word *school* and it's definition. We're going to consider how this applies to the homeschool lifestyle. Then, we're going to consider Matthew Henry's Commentary on Isaiah 54:13 and how it relates to the value of the child in our care.

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Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines *school* as:

SCHOOL, noun [Latin schola; Gr. leisure, vacation from business, lucubration at leisure, a place where leisure is enjoyed, a school. The adverb signifies at ease, leisurely, slowly, hardly, with labor or difficulty. I think, must have been derived from the Latin. This word seems originally to have denoted leisure, freedom from business, a time given to sports, games or exercises, and afterwards time given to literary studies. The sense of a crowd, collection or shoal, seems to be derivative.]

1. A place or house in which persons are instructed in arts, science, languages or any species of learning; or the pupils assembled for instruction. In American usage, school more generally denotes the collective body of pupils in any place of instruction, and under the direction and discipline of one or more teachers.

4. A place of education, or collection of pupils, of any kind; as the schools of the prophets. In modern usage, the word school comprehends every place of education, as university, college, academy, common or primary schools, dancing schools, riding schools, etc.;

What is the great community of Christians, but one of the innumerable schools in the vast plan, which God has instituted for the education of various intelligences?

Hence, school divinity is the divinity which discusses nice points, and proves everything by argument.

7. Any place of improvement or learning. The world is an excellent school to wise men, but a school of vice to fools.

SCHOOL, verb transitive

1. To instruct; to train; to educate.

He's gentle, never school'd, yet learn'd.

2. To teach with superiority; to tutor; to chide and admonish; to reprove.

Isn't it interesting how all of these words— education, tutor, teach, taught, school, etc.—relate to each other and have individuality at the same time?

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Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible:

All thy children shall be taught of the Lord. The church's children, being born of God, shall be taught of God; being his children by adoption, he will take care of their education. It was promised (v. 1) that the church's children should be many; but lest we should think that being many, as sometimes it happens in numerous families, they will be neglected, and not have instruction given them so carefully as if they were but few, God here takes that work into his own hand: They shall all be taught of the Lord; and none teaches like him. First, It is a promise of the means of instruction and those means authorized by a divine institution: They shall all be taught of God, that is, they shall be taught by those whom God shall appoint and whose labours shall be under his direction and blessing. He will ordain the methods of instruction, and by his word and ordinances will diffuse a much greater light than the Old-Testament church had. Care shall be taken for the teaching of the church's children, that knowledge may be transmitted from generation to generation, and that all may be enriched with it, from the least even to the greatest. Secondly, It is a promise of the Spirit of illumination. Our Saviour quotes it with application to gospel grace, and makes it to have its accomplishment in all those that were brought to believe in him (Jn. 6:45): It is written in the prophets, They shall be all taught of God, whence he infers that those, and those only, come to him by faith that have heard and learned of the Father, that are taught by him as the truth is in Jesus, Eph. 4:21. There shall be a plentiful effusion of the Spirit of grace upon Christians, to teach them all things, Jn. 14:26. [2.] When the members of it live in love and unity among themselves: Great shall be the peace of thy children. Peace may be taken here for all good. As where no knowledge of God is no good can be expected, so those that are taught of God to know him are in a fair way to prosper for both worlds. Great peace have those that know and love God's law, Ps. 119:165. But it is often put for love and unity; and so we may take it. All that are taught of God are taught to love one another (1 Th. 4:9) and that will keep peace among the church's children and prevent their falling out by the way. [3.] When holiness reigns; for that above any thing is the beauty of the church (v. 14): In righteousness shall thou be established. The reformation of manners, the restoration of purity, the due administration of public justice, and the prevailing of honesty and fair dealing among men, are the strength and stability of any church or state. The kingdom of God, set up by the gospel of Christ, is not meat and drink, but this righteousness and peace, holiness and love.

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Copy Isaiah 54:13 below.

Paraphrase Isaiah 54:13 below.

Reason from the truths in Isaiah 54:13, from Webster's 1828 definition, and from Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible about how this relates to your role as a parent and to "school".

Share with us in the community from this lesson about your "ah-ha" moments, what inspires you, or what gives you clarity in this lesson.

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EXAMPLE

Honor System: Please read this only if you really feel that you need it to guide you in how it may look. This is my reasoning from the lesson. My goal is to help guide you; not influence your answers.

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EXAMPLE

Copy Isaiah 54:13 below.

And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children.

Paraphrase Isaiah 54:13 below.

The Lord teaches my children and they will have peace because of Him.

Reason from the truths in Isaiah 54:13, from Webster's 1828 definition, and from Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible about how this relates to your role as a parent.

My children will be stretched of the Lord—spiritually, inwardly, externally. My children experience wisdom because they experience teaching by His Holy Spirit.

School is a place where leisure is enjoyed. According to Webster's 1828 Dictionary, *lieisure* means: "convenience of time". While we have breath within us, they have the convenience of time to learn from and with me as I am taught by the Lord. And, while they have the convenience of time to learn directly from the Lord.

We learn with ease—precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little (Isaiah 28:10). He instructs us gently, He instructs them gently, and I follow His lead by also instructing them gently.

We can enjoy learning in many ways: sports, games, exercise, and then through literature (Bible, books, stories, etc.). Principles, character, and morals can be taught via all of these ways. Homeschooling allows for us to pattern our school in the order that the 1828 lists: expend some physical energy, creative energy, and then use mental energy.

Share with us in the community from this lesson about your "ah-ha" moments, what inspires you, or what gives you clarity in this lesson.

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In this expanded lesson, you learned or reinforced your convictions of:

- that the Lord will teach our children
- our children will have peace from His teachings
- "taught" means to stretch and this means that our children will be stretched of the Lord (just like we are)
- our children will experience wisdom because they experience teaching by His Holy Spirit
- school is a place where leisure is enjoyed
- it's okay to pattern our days in this way: sports, games, exercise, and then literature
- there is a natural order by expending some physical energy (we wake up and get out of bed and move around), creative energy (we decide how to put together our outfits for the day and what we'll be doing), and then use mental energy (the mind is awake and ready for study)
- "[S]o those that are taught of God to know him are in a fair way to prosper for both worlds. Great peace have those that know and love God's law, Ps. 119:165." - Matthew Henry

In this module, you reflect on:

- God's sovereignty and provision of relationship with Him
- God's sovereignty and provision for our learning
- God's sovereignty and provision within the role of parents
- that we may enjoy the leisure of learning from Him with our children
- that we may enjoy the blessing of leisurely teaching our children (it's not a "business" like a "traditional school"... it's basking together in the Light of God at the pace that He sets for us
- how we may pattern our days in a natural way vs. a "manmade construct" that has it backwards