

Family Heritage Developer

Walkersville Christian Family Schools - *Established 1983*
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"God forbid that I should forsake the inheritance of my fathers" -- 1 Kings 21:3

May 21, 2015

Why We Homeschool Our Kids

by Gary L. Cox

For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

(Romans 14:8 KJV)

The greatest impact a Christian may have upon his fellow man is a resolute conscience toward God and an equally resolute respect to the conscience of his fellow man. Christian conscience resists conformity to the world like an anvil resists the mighty blows of the blacksmith: the Christian remains unchanged and the world is reshaped by the skilled hand of the Sovereign Craftsman; Who works out all things after the counsel of His own will. The Christian's conscionable resistance to human-willfulness is a furnace that burns away conformity to the world and leaves the gold of a faith-filled holiness. Toward this precious treasure the scripture bids us, *Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.* (Rom. 14:5b)

Raising kids with a conscience towards God is the highest goal of the Christian parent. The truly Christian conscience neither lives nor dies unto himself, but to the Lord; and he gives full respect to every other man's conscience to do the same — tolerating even opposite convictions in the confidence that God can deal with and correct His own servants. *Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord!* (Rom. 12:19) The correction of wrongdoing is left to the Lord, while the Christian heaps on deliberate acts of kindness.

Emerging Christian adults ought to look like the sober servants, described in Romans 12, who live out their lives as a living sacrifice without hypocrisy, holy and acceptable unto God which is their reasonable service:

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in

the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12)

A Changing Landscape

The homeschool landscape has changed in recent years. *Third party credentialing* and validation of high school credits has become an important necessity for students pursuing post-secondary opportunities that require a certified high school transcripts and diplomas. Increasingly, home school graduates are being required to give evidence of high school graduation *and* competency in core courses in order to compete for scholarships and placements into college and other post-secondary programs.

Last year, the Maryland Police Academy was in the news for refusing to accept certain home-schooled students diplomas. Refusal was not a case of prejudice against homeschoolers, but the failure of the students to provide properly certified transcripts. Upon close evaluation, college admissions departments, and institutions like the Navy and Police Academy, don't accept parent-issued transcripts and diplomas. These transcripts and diplomas are not objectively certified, creating questions of authenticity. For example, the Maryland police academy *is required by law* to accept only a diploma recognized by the MD Board of Education or transcripts certified from legitimate Maryland education institutions that validate an applicant's completion of a bona fide high school academic program.

WCFS has been providing recognized diplomas and certified transcripts to homeschool students for over 32 years. Our school is classified as a tier-one academy (highest level) with the United States Navy, and has been a member of the NCAA and College Board Assessment post-secondary educational organizations since 1983. Our transcripts and diplomas have been accepted

by the colleges and universities wherever our students have applied.

Opportunities abound for homeschool students; however, scholarships and admissions are often very competitive, demanding an authentic high school diploma and certified student transcripts. Most so called "umbrellas" do not provide transcripts or diplomas because they do not operate as bona fide educational institutions. As a bona fide education program, Walkersville Christian Family Schools operates in the same manner as a private Christian school. We provide the framework for approved coursework and transcripts that provide for authentic high school diplomas.

Distance learning and dual enrollment in high school and college courses is becoming standard fare for high school students in public and private school settings. WCFS has assisted home school students with the dual enrollment processes since the early 1980's. Academic flexibility increasingly creates a need for standard academic policies for all students public and private! Objective, third-party credentialing is simply the required tool to establish a level playing field for all students.

The NCAA has created new rules that take into consideration the modern world of online cyber and non traditional classes. The guiding rule is this: *every core course required for student eligibility must be individually reviewed and approved.* Whether from a public, private, non-traditional or home school, every core course must be approved in an objective manner. No institution or course is exempt from the objective approval process. WCFS provides home school students with that objectivity to assist them in validating home school courses.

The WCFS board has requested that we reach out to assist home school students in producing recognized diplomas and credentialed transcripts. Please invite your home-school friends and contacts to our upcoming Open House on June 27. We are grateful for the doors of opportunity that God has provided for us as we continue to operate as a private Christian home-school academy! *Help us to spread the word!*

Gary L. Cox

Becky's Tips

1. Living the Gospel

Throughout the school year we have been discussing how to teach and discipline with the Gospel in mind. Please read Romans three versus 20 through 24.

Now consider this point:

Remember that Grace is available to the one who sees himself as a sinner. Grace is not to be used as an excuse to behave in any manner I please and then ask God for grace.

2. Engagement Learning

When considering what you want to teach your children, remember that in today's world of fast-changing facts we want to be teaching principles.

For example:

How do I get the most accurate facts? And how do I report those facts most honestly.

3. Book to Consider

Indescribable, by Louie Giglio.

Many Giglio videos are also available on YouTube. Though this book was published in 2011, it is excellent enough to continue using.

4. Review

As we review showing God as Creator, sustainer, revealer, redeemer consider Romans 11:36.

"For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Show your student that God reveals to him that which he wants the student to learn. Then the glory is to go to the Father, not to the student.

5. More review

Here are some reminders for teaching research and thinking skills for grades one through six.

Grades 1-3

During these grades you will be teaching the child to become fluent reader. Much of this

teaching will be rote. However, during the same years, you will be focusing on thinking skills during read aloud time and with life skills. Research skills will become exciting as you wonder together about topics and look for answers.

Grade 4

Read on a variety of topics. It is appropriate at this level to share the reading responsibility. Choose a topic that you will explore more in depth. With this topic begin writing some of your findings. Begin to recognize the need to give credit when you use someone else's ideas. Be alert to the need to give extra help. Help the child to begin to explain why and how about different situations in his life. Get excited with your child about why you believe what you believe. This will be developed throughout the rest of the school years.

Grade 5-6

Continue to choose topics of interest. Research those topics. Write up your findings. In these grades be more concerned about learning excellent skills than a finished research project. Continue to learn why the Bible is accurate and dependable. Help your student to be able to solve daily problems based on what he knows about Scripture.

Enjoy your summer as we look forward to working together in another school year.

Love, Becky

STUDENT DEVELOPER

Yun Tortured For the Sake of the Gospel

By Alex Bruns – 12th grade

A Chinese Christian arrested for preaching about Christ. The book called *The Heavenly Man* is based on a true story that occurred in the last forty years. The Heavenly Man, who wrote the book, is known over all over the world as Brother Yun. It is the account of how he survived all of the pain he received in his ministry in China. He tells his exciting tale of how he was arrested and how he escaped. Yun is still alive today, and now lives in Germany. In short, this is Yun's story.

Yun was born in a Chinese family, and he was saved at the age of sixteen. This was the time when China was a country in which Christianity was not allowed. He prayed for a Bible for a long period of time and finally received one through a miracle of God. A few months after he had his Bible, Yun started to preach the gospel all over the country. He married a Christian girl who helped support him in his ministry. Then persecution struck. Yun was arrested repeatedly but somehow escaped many times. He served four times in prison. The first time he was in prison he miraculously survived not eating or drinking for seventy-four days. While he was in there he was tortured for Christ. Amazingly, Yun led many people to Christ in prison. Another time in 1997 when he had his legs broken so he could not escape, God miraculously enabled Yun to walk right past the security guards to freedom. The last time he served time in prison was when he was trying to rescue his wife and two children from China. God intervened and he was released after seven months of bondage and captivity. He was finally a free man a week after September 11, 2001, when he left China permanently.

Yun's story of his escapes from prison and how he was spared from death every time is just remarkable. God was the reason, because He was with Yun every step of the way. God is still using him in great ways in Germany. God has impacted him in many ways. Yun is just a man, but he is a hero because he served even while suffering for the sake of the gospel.

WCFS COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES FOR THE CLASS OF 2015 SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2015 @ 1PM

You are invited to participate in probably the most joyful event we have to offer, that is our Graduation Ceremony. Commencement Exercises are planned for Saturday, May 30, 2015 at 1pm *sharp* at White Marsh Baptist Church. Please come and share this enjoyable time with the WCFS Class of 2015. *Light refreshments will be served immediately following the ceremony.*

White Marsh Baptist Church, 4216 Silver Spring Rd, Perry Hall, MD 21128