

Our Own Schools, Too Protective? (cntd)

handed over to our children as well, for which they need to be equipped to use it well and to be excited about it, and to be incited for it.

So our schools, being covenantal, need to indeed bind our home and our school together, so that parents and teachers cooperate and work together and are working together on one page. And that's where my concern often has been as well, that feeling of giving it over to the teachers and being happy and content at home. That feeling also means that we are not on the same page, that the education that the teachers are working on so well and so hard is not at the same level as the education that is given at home. Parents and teachers need to be on the same page. Today parents and teachers need to get together to speak about the use of the internet, they need to speak together about the entertainment that we choose for our children, that we prefer to instill in our children, what we can accept and what we cannot accept. What is coming to our teenagers, what is coming to our students in various uncontrolled ways without parents or teachers being aware of it? We need to become aware of it, we need to speak about it together, we need to know how both teachers and parents are together monitoring the use of the iphones of our children. We need to know together as teachers and parents how we should lead our children in the organisation of parties, and the parameters and the concrete things that they do in the parties, and how they prepare for the parties. We need to speak about that together, so that we can instill in them that Christian spirit, that Christian holiness, that

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Christian attitude, in the way they entertain themselves, in the way they organise themselves, in the way they use their gadgets, and in the way they access the internet. The protection that we seek must be a protection that we seek together, in the same way, in the same spirit, on the same page.

And that is then for the teachers indeed a task that we lay upon them, and that is a tremendously heavy task. But it should also be assured and ensured that the teachers know that at home they do the same thing. And thereto there have been concerns that all the reformed education and good work that the teachers do is undone by an attitude at home that is not Christian, by a use of the TV at home that is not responsible, by an admission at home to the internet that is not the same as in the school, or the use of Netflix that is not in line with the principles that the teachers instill at school. We need to speak about that so that the work of the teachers is not undone at home or that the work of the home is in line and on the same page as the teachers.

So we are protective indeed, for a purpose. We need to do this together for that purpose, protecting our children from that influence of the world, but also preparing these children for that position in the world. As it was

mentioned earlier, that needs to be done to the glory of God, and that needs to be done in accordance with God's Word. So we need to discuss these matters together and cannot just presume that we are all on the same page, because we are not. So reformed covenantal education today, brothers and sisters, is indeed done in the awareness that Christians are in the world but not of the world. The emphasis perhaps has been too often and too much on that last part; we are not of the world, no, but we are in the world!

“God's salvation affects peoples whole being and their whole life, and a life in communion with God is what we aim for with our children”

And because we are in the world: we'd better be prepared for the world; we'd better know the world; we better have an understanding of the world and discern the spirits and test whether they are of God, and not just have homes or churches or schools without windows and doors. God's salvation affects peoples whole being and their whole life, and a life in communion with God is what we aim for with our children. That means that of course the children, baptized as they are in the name of the triune God, need to know their Father and His good creation, and they need to know the Son because they have come to know and learn about their sins in a very concrete, in a very pointed, in a very articulate way. And they must be aware that at home and at school, just as in the church,



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we are in the workshop of the Holy Spirit. And that the work of the Holy Spirit, by His spirit and word, is a very real activity in the home and in the school as well. For without communion with God it is impossible to exist, or to know, or to work, or to produce, or to employ ourselves. That needs to be trained and instilled and employed throughout the time that we raise our children.

So, knowing what we have, and treasuring what the Lord gives, and having learned all that we have over the past 60 years, we need to indeed place that under the light of God's Word and all of life, and equip our children. Equip our students with the application, equip them with the armour of faith, equip them with the ability to use it and to integrate their faith in this world. Having their opinion, having their understanding honed and improved and sharpened, so that they know the spirit of our age, so that they know the spiritual warfare that is raging, so that they know how the spirits in the air are seen in the music of today, can be recognized in the fashion of today, are evident in the entertainment market of today. And they need to indeed at the same time, positively and constructively, become active members in the community, not only in their daily profession

but also in their political engagement in their social activities.

“The Bible, the confessions, and covenantal education should educate, equip and encourage the students to stand in the spiritual warfare”

We need to give our children also a vision for today, a vision in the society. We cannot just suffice with focusing on that covenant and those promises and those obligations, and keep that all very clinical without a concrete application. We need to send those children into this world with a task, that they are going to be kingdom children, royal children who are having a vision in this world and would engage themselves in ARPA, and would engage themselves in community work, would engage themselves also in outreach, and all sorts of other activities which are Christian, and for which they are prepared, and for which they are incited. So a reformed life in service to God and the neighbour in today's society encompasses all of life. Hence the school should lay a sound and scholarly basis for a reformed view of this world, culture, and society. Our students who go to university,

and that's just one example, need not and should not feel embarrassed when they are confronted with the evolution theory. But in the barracks they should be trained to know the spirits of evolution, the teachings of evolution. They should also know the answers very well so that when they are put on the spot and they are confronted with that false philosophy, that they have their answers ready in a scholarly and academic way, well trained over the course of 12 years. Because these are the reasons why people have that complaint of a too sheltered upbringing. They are 'not prepared for those moments' they say, and therefore they 'need' to go to a public school or a state school first for 2 years. No! In that protective environment of the school they need to know all the Q's and all the clues and all the answers for the situation that they will be facing in university or TAFE or in society. In short, the Bible, the confessions, and covenantal education should educate, equip and encourage the students to stand in the spiritual warfare for the battle of which they need to be trained adequately and efficiently and comprehensively.

