

Validating Thoughts for Home School Parents

I am opposed to free education as much as I am opposed to taking property from one man and giving it to another. .Would I encourage free schools by taxation? No! --Brigham Young (JD 18:357)

Brother Maeser, I want you to remember that you ought not to teach even the alphabet or the multiplication tables without the spirit of God. --Brigham Young (Educating Zion p. 10)

Mothers... we will appoint you a mission to teach your children their duty; and instead of ruffles and fine dresses to adorn the body, teach them that which will adorn their minds.
--Brigham Young (JD 14:220 - 21)

Well, shall we, after going to the ends of the earth to gather people to Zion, in order that they may learn more perfectly of His ways and walk in His paths, shall we then allow our children to be at the mercy of those who would lead them down to death again? God forbid! Let our teachers be men of God, men of honor and integrity, and let us afford our children such learning as will place our community in the front ranks of educational as well as religious matters. --John Taylor (JD 19:249)

Establish schools taught by those of our own faith, where being free from the trammels of State aid, they can unhesitatingly teach the doctrines of true religion combined with the various branches of general education. John Taylor (Direction to the Idaho Saints, Messages of the First Presidency Vol. 3, p. 5)

Whatever you do, be choice in your selection of teachers. We do not want infidels to mold the minds of our children. They are a precious charge bestowed upon us by the Lord, and we cannot be too careful in rearing and training them. I would rather have my children taught the simple rudiments of a common education by men of God, and have them under their influence, than have them taught in the most abstruse sciences by men who have not the fear of God in their hearts. --John Taylor (JD 24:168)

But if I had been living in Adam's time and had had children, I do not think I should have sent them to be educated by Cain. Would you? --John Taylor (JD 24:352)

We must train statesmen, not demagogues; men of integrity, not weaklings who for a mess of pottage will sell their birthright. We must develop these precious youth to know the art of statesmanship, to know people and conditions, to know situations and problems, but men who will be trained so thoroughly in the arts of their future work and in the basic homes ties and integrities and spiritual concepts that there will be no compromise of principle. --Spencer W. Kimball (BYU Convocation Oct. 1975)

True education to the Latter-day Saint is education that builds faith and promotes righteousness. Education that fails to do this cannot be considered as aught but inferior education. --Belle S. Spafford (Woman's Reach, p. 40)

Although Infidelity is not directly taught in the public schools, its spirit is fostered by the exclusion of religious education. --George Q. Cannon (General Board of Education Minutes, April 1889)

It will be a great temptation to many people to send their children to the free school that will now be supported by our taxes, but of what value is learning if it is acquired at the expense of faith. --George Q. Cannon (Juv. Inst., Vol. 25 p. 243)

The principle aim of schools and colleges seems to be to give the students purely intellectual attainments and to give but passing regard to the nobler and more necessary development along moral lines .. True education does not assist merely in the acquiring of a few facts of science, history, literature, or art, but in the development of character. --David O. McKay (Gospel Ideals p. 441, April Conference, 1932)

Any education is undoubtedly better than none, but a free people, to remain free, must ever strive for the highest and best. --David O. McKay (April Conference 1968)

I think that by the end of the millennium, for those who will occupy the celestial kingdom, the home will be the only media for teaching children. Teaching will be through the family... But I think there will be central places where Instruction will go forth, directed to the family level. --Alvin R. Dyer (Education: Moving Toward and Under The Law of Consecration 1969)

The time will come when only those who believe deeply and actively in the family will be able to preserve their families in the midst of the gathering evil around us... We genuinely welcome help, real help, from churches, schools, colleges, and universities, from thoughtful men and women of every race, creed, and culture who care about the family. But, as indicated earlier, if the supporting network of institutions does not function adequately, then we will do our part anyway. --Spencer W. Kimball (Oct Conference 1980)

We should not assume that public schools always reinforce teachings given in the home concerning ethical and moral conduct. We have seen introduced into many school systems false ideas about the theory of man's development from lower forms of life, teachings that there are no absolute values, attempts to repudiate beliefs regarded as supernatural, permissive attitudes toward sexual freedom that give sanction to immoral behavior and "alternative lifestyles", such as lesbianism, homosexuality, and other perverse practices. --Ezra Taft Benson (Come Unto Christ p. 59)

In gearing the curricula to the middle of the class, our system too often has not provided sufficient challenge for the better student. Champions seldom become champions by competing only against mediocrity. --Ezra Taft Benson (ETB p. 298-299.)

With the abundance of books available today, it is a mark of a truly educated person to know what not to read. --Ezra Taft Benson (May Conference, 1986)

In many places it is literally not safe physically for youngsters to go to school. And in many schools - and its becoming almost generally true - it is spiritually unsafe to attend public schools.

--Boyd K. Packer (BYU Symposium Oct., 1996)

As a watchman on the tower, I feel to warn you that one of the chief means of misleading our youth and destroying the family unit is our educational institutions. President Joseph F. Smith referred to false educational ideas as one of the three threatening dangers among our church members, --Ezra Taft Benson (God, Family, Country; Our Three Great Loyalties, Deseret Book, p. 224)

Great ideals and principles do not live from generation to generation just because they are right, nor even because they have been carefully legislated. Ideals and principles continue from generation to generation only when they are built into the hearts of the children as they grow up. --George S. Benson (Thoughts on Virtue)

If prayer is to leave the public schools, let the ridicule of prayer leave also. --Boyd K. Packer (Ensign, Sept. 1973)

It is evident that true religious training must include instruction in relation to God and to his laws and government and also in relation to man's duty to man. Such teaching is given effectively not necessarily in a formal theology class, but in literature, art, geology, biology, and other classes... Thus all facts may be viewed by the students not through the green glass of prejudice or doubt, but in the clear sunlight of truth. --David O. McKay (BYU Address, 1937)

Moral values are being neglected and prayer expelled from public schools on the pretext that moral teaching belongs to religion. At the same time, atheism, the secular religion, is admitted to class, and our youngsters are proselyted to a conduct without morality... we are caught in a current so strong that unless we correct our course, civilization as we know it will surely be wrecked to pieces... The distance between the church and a world set on a course which we cannot follow will steadily increase. --Boyd K. Packer, (General Conference, April 1994)

My young brother and sisters, you live in a world which, as prophesied, is often confusing and perplexing. By combining true education and true religion, you will be able to distinguish between what is merely today's trends and the eternal truths, and between celestial sense and secular nonsense.... Those individuals who are illuminated, spiritually and educationally, will help to show the way in a world darkened by despair.... God bless you in these days, which are your days in the history of the kingdom of God. --Neal A. Maxwell (Seek Learning by Study and Also by Faith videocassette)

No matter where we begin, if we pursue knowledge diligently and honestly, our quest will inevitably lead us from the things of the earth to the things of heaven. --Hugh Nibley (OAT, p.130)

Parental responsibility cannot go unheeded, nor can it be shifted to day-care centers, nor to the schoolroom, nor even to the Church. Family responsibility comes by divine decree. Parents may violate this decree only at the peril of their eternal salvation. --A. Theodore Tuttle (Ensign, Jan. 1973)

No system of education can be perfect which does not teach the principles of righteousness and faith In God. Learning has not saved the world. It is of utmost importance that our children should, in the first place, be taught faith in God. This cannot be left out of our system of education. --George Q. Cannon (Juv. Inst. vol.25, p243, 1 890)

That, it seems to me, is the key to true education. No man can receive a fulness of truth unless he keeps the commandments of our Father in heaven. Learning is not wisdom. We have been misled into thinking that learning is the ultimate in education. True education must result in wisdom. -- Elder Joseph F. Smith (Conference Report, April 1946, Second Day----Morning Meeting, 62.)

The mere stuffing of the mind with a knowledge of facts is not education. The mind must not only possess a knowledge of the truth, but the soul must revere it, cherish it, love it as a priceless gem; and this human life must be guided and shaped by It in order to fulfill its destiny. --Joseph F. Smith (GD, p.269)

...This rising generation is the first generation to be reared in a time when society's other institutions, previously supportive of certain moral standards, have largely been neutralized, or worse, secularized. This rising generation, basically shorn of such external support systems, therefore must believe because of the word, and behave because they believe. As we all know, current film, music, art, and theater too often promote drugs, alcohol, pornography and promiscuity... this is not simply a temporary tidal wave which ere long will pass. it is the wave-tossed secular sea itself, and it will not subside until He comes and all the winds and the waves once again obey his will. Hence this is not the time for busy or preoccupied parents to leave our youth unloved, unattended, or untaught. --Neal A. Maxwell, (General Conference, April 1984)

True education does not assist merely in the acquiring of a few facts of science, history, literature, or art, but in the development of character. --David O. McKay (Gospel Ideals p.441. April Conf. 1932)

True education seeks to make men and women not only good mathematicians, proficient linguists, profound scientists, or brilliant literary lights, but also, honest men, with virtue, temperance. and brotherly love. It seeks to make men and women who prize truth, justice, wisdom, benevolence, and self-control as the choicest acquisitions of a successful life. --David O. McKay (Teachings of Presidents of the Church, xix--xx, Ensign, Jan. 05)

We must gain learning, but we must apply it wisely. Otherwise, we have politics without principle, industry without morality, knowledge without wisdom, science without humanity! -- Russell M. Nelson (Ensign, Nov. 1984)

We must say plainly what we mean, because the future of our youth, both here on earth and In the hereafter, as well as the welfare of the whole church is at stake. The youth of the church, your students, are in great majority sound in thought and spirit. The problem primarily is to keep them sound, not to convert them. --J. Reuben Clark, Jr. (CES Address, August 8, 1938)

We should have schools wherein the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and the Book of Doctrine and Covenants can be used as textbooks, and where the principles of our religion may form a part of

the teachings of the schools. --David O. McKay (BYU Address, 1937)

What has happened to our schools? There are still many that are excellent, but there are very many that are failing. What has become of the teaching of values? We are told that educators must be neutral in these matters. Neutrality in the teaching of values can only lead to an absence of values. --Gordon B. Hinckley (U.S. Mayors Conference, September 25, 1998)

You are not to teach the philosophies of the world, ancient or modern, pagan or Christian, for this is the field of ~ the public schools. --J. Reuben Clark, Jr. (CES Address, August 8, 1938)

We must be willing to break with the educational establishment (not foolishly or cavalierly, but thoughtfully and for good reason) in order to find gospel ways to help mankind. —Spencer W. Kimball (BYU Studentbody Address, May 13, 1969)

Let our teachers ask the Father, in the name of Jesus, to bestow upon them and upon their scholars the Spirit of wisdom and intelligence from heaven; ask for skill to control and ability to teach on the part of the teacher, and willingness to be controlled and adaptability to be taught on the part of the scholars. —Brigham Young, (JD, 9:369, Aug. 31, 1862)