

As parents, we struggle with the schooling issue. If we choose to leave our kids in public school, are we making an unwise and unspiritual choice?

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:6–7; Ephesians 6:1–4; Colossians 3:20–21

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Even within our neighborhoods—and even in some Christian schools—are influences that tear at our desired spiritual standards. Also, some Christian schools lack the quality and depth of education that public schools can offer—and that can apply even to the basics.

But don't automatically assume that's the case just because the neighboring public school looks bigger and more impressive than the local Christian school. Many times the students of Christian schools have significantly higher scores in nationally standardized tests than do their counterparts in public schools. To make an accurate evaluation you'll need to make inquiries about the curricula, programs, teacher training, and comparative test results of each school.

Is it wrong to put your children in a public school? Not necessarily. Is it right to put your children only in Christian schools—or home-school them? Not necessarily.

Remember that the ultimate responsibility for the proper education of your children rests upon you—the parents—not the school or the church (Deuteronomy 6:6–7; Ephesians 6:4). Those two institutions are vital to a child's overall development, but standards, convictions, and moral strength should be implemented at home.

Not everything is necessarily good or high quality because it is called "Christian," nor is everything bad just because it is under the umbrella of public education. Parents need to be especially wise and discerning in that important area.

If high-quality Christian education is available and affordable, that's certainly preferable. However, carefully evaluate all the factors and options of your situation. Seek God's will earnestly (Ephesians 5:17) and couple that with strong, biblical parenting (Ephesians 6:1–4; Colossians 3:20–21).

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