



THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL OF GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

Partnering With Parents

Children are a gift from God to be stewarded for His honor and glory. God requires parents to provide their children with love, discipline, education, and all other needs.

Our school, from its founding, has affirmed that parents must educate their children. Our mission statement is, "The Christian School of Grace Baptist Church seeks to *partner with parents* by providing for their children a Christ-centered education that prepares them to serve God for time and eternity with their head, heart, and hands." The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania affirms this truth in Title 24 P.S. Education § 13-1327, where it holds parents responsible for ensuring their children receive proper schooling. And scripture says parents are responsible to educate their children, Deut. 6:5-7.

But what does it mean to partner with parents? If God expects parents to educate their children, what happens when parents send their children to school and are not directly involved in the process during those hours?

To begin, the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately sick, Jer. 17:9. This means a child must be taught and shown that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, Prov. 1:7. Therefore, teachers must lead and direct the child and his education. Our classrooms, sports, arts, and field trips are teacher-led.

When parents are absent, their God-given authority (Ex. 20:12) is vested in the teacher. This is true any time parents place their child in another's care. For example, parents give their authority to babysitters or youth group leaders to enforce limits, give instruction, and discipline. If others are to care for a child in place of the parents, they must be given the parents' authority.

Because parental authority is from God, we endeavor to honor him with that authority, for the good of students. Because parents and teachers are both imbued with God's authority, parents and teachers must work together to use that authority harmoniously. Just as mom and dad must agree on almost every issue, so parents and teachers must agree. When disagreement arises, it must be solved without consulting the child's opinion. Otherwise, students will see the division and question who is to be trusted and obeyed. If that happens, the foundation of education is eroded within their hearts, because authority is required to educate children. And the gospel is undermined because children must be shown that God requires submission to him, Ex. 20:3.

We are a church-run, not a parent-run, school and the Bible guides what and how we teach. Enrollment means consent that we will teach all subjects in light of God's revelation. Further, we are governed by the constitutions of the church and school. These define our interpretation of the Bible and the boundaries of our operation. Partnering with us means working within these boundaries and honoring the means and methods we use to teach, discipline, and care for students. Partnering with you means that we will be clear about what we teach, how we operate, and why. If you have questions about any of these things, please speak with a teacher, the headmaster, or a school board member.

