

Educational Creed

4. Believing that the Lord God, by graciously giving the Scriptures, has revealed to His people certain basic principles intensely relevant to education, the Association is governed by the following guiding principles:
- (a) LIFE: Since life is religion, God summons us to serve Him everywhere and requires from us that we educate our children in the fear of the Lord.
 - (b) BIBLE: The Word of God written, is the power of God unto salvation, the truth that enlightens our understanding and the only infallible authority for all our activity, including the education of our children. In revealing that the world in its origin, gracious preservation and ultimate restoration is the purpose of creation, the Scripture provides us with the true key to the Knowledge of God, ourselves and the world.
 - (c) GOD AND CREATION: God created all things out of nothing, by a special act, through the Word of His Power, in an orderly historical sequence and all very good. Each basic type of life form ('kind') was created distinctly. Since all creation is upheld by His power we can only understand it in its relation to the triune God, for whose glory all creation exists.
 - (d) MAN: Man was created male and female in the image of God to enjoy the true communion with the Creator in knowledge, righteousness and holiness and was instructed to exercise dominion over the world in strict and loving obedience to God, to interpret all reality in accordance with His design and law and to reflect in his person and works the excellence of his Maker.
 - (e) SIN: Man at the fall disobeyed God's law and forsook his office, separated himself from God, became estranged from his neighbour, and brought God's curse upon all creation. As a result man is dead in sin, wholly corrupt throughout the whole man, become blind to the true meaning of life and misuses and represses the knowledge of God which confronts him in creation and scripture. The creation is neither chaotic nor meaningless but is ordered and pregnant with meaning by the creative act of God, graciously preserved and sustained by Him in spite of the disruptive effects of man's sin, and subject to the law of the Creator in all things.
 - (f) CHRIST: The Christ of the Scriptures, the Word of God incarnate, who being the eternal Son of God, became man and therefore was and continues to be God and man in two distinct natures and one person forever, redeems our life in its entirety, restores our fellowship with God and our neighbour and renews our mind to know rightly God, ourselves and the world in which we live.
 - (g) THE KINGDOM OF GOD: The Kingdom of God makes education and science possible and meaningful. Since we subject every thought to the obedience of Christ, we therefore reject every attempt to withdraw any aspect of life from the divine commandment to love the Lord with all our heart and mind.
 - (h) PURPOSE: The purpose of Christian education is to direct the child to commit his heart to the truth, to attain understanding, wisdom and righteousness and to perform his competent and responsible service to the Lord.
 - (i) COVENANT: God has provided for Christian parents the covenant of grace which is God's appointed means to effect Christ's redemption in their children. In the light of this gracious covenant, God has given parents the responsibility to nurture and educate their children. The Christian school should be established in order to enable parents to fulfil their educational responsibility.
 - (j) THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL: The school is a community of teachers, students and members of a fellowship of Christian believers established and controlled by the Association of Parents and Friends operating under this constitution, united in the communal confession of faith in Christ the Head. Although parents have a primary responsibility for education of the child, yet as Christ has one Body and as believers are members together of that one Body, the Church of God, the school is the responsibility of the whole body of Christ. Within the school community the student is subject to the authority of the teacher, whose legitimate authority is to be upheld by the whole school community. Authority is never to be exercised or maintained for its own sake, but in the school is only to be used for the effective nurture of the child, in harmony with the special task of the school and with an awareness that all authority is of God, to whom all who exercise authority must give account.
 - (k) DEFINITION OF TERMS: All terms used in this section must be defined in terms of the Reformed Confessions of Faith and particularly the Westminster Confession of Faith.