



# San Luis Obispo Christian School

## What Did Christian Education Ever Do For Anybody?!

By Stefani Curry

MAY 2010

Mrs. Griffith approached me and asked me to write an article about the importance Christian education had in my life. Before I sat down to write this, I decided to do a little research and see what it is that parents are looking for when deciding between Christian and public education. Things like class size, safety, morals, and ethics consistently came up. These are all excellent reasons to attend a Christian school! But what about the Christian families that decided to send their children to public school? What issues did they have with Christian education? The concerns that consistently came up were the financial burden, the sheltering of children, and living in areas that already have successful public schools. These are all great points, and for many parents this is reason enough to attend public school. However, from my own personal experiences with Christian schooling, I have decided to send my own children to private school and here's why!

Growing up, my mother was a private school teacher and administrator of a small Christian school and my father was a self-employed contractor. To say the least, my parents weren't exactly making the big bucks. However, when it came time to send my sister and I to school, they made the decision to pay for us to attend private Christian schools for two reasons. First, they felt that the money they were spending was an investment in our future both educationally, and spiritually. Secondly, they felt called by God to send us to Christian schools, and they believed when you are in the will of God, he will meet your needs financially and otherwise. Psalm 37:4 says "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." I saw my parents struggle to make ends meet, but I also saw how they relied on God to provide for them; and He did! We received a wonderful education right where God intended us to be. In these difficult financial times, it is going to be harder and harder to find the means to send our children to Christian schools. As I approach the coming school years, my husband and I have chosen to trust God, just as my parents did, and seek His will in the lives of our children. If He continues to call us to send our children to Christian schools, we will listen and will not limit Him with dollar signs!

The idea of "sheltering" our children is definitely another hot topic among Christian families. Some parents chose Christian education precisely for the fact that it did shelter their children, while others chose to send their children to public schools for the very same reason. We have all heard the stories about those sheltered Christian children who rebelled once moving out of the house and being exposed to "the real world". On one particular online message board, one parent wrote "Sooner or later they are going to have to learn to interact with people with differing beliefs and values and still hold fast to their own beliefs. If they do not learn this along the way in life, it could be a real shock for them when it comes all at once in college or a job setting." I would completely agree with this parent's statement, however, I would argue that children can learn those skills through their Christian schooling. Personally, the foundation I received from my schooling has been an invaluable part of my life. I still come back to the concepts I learned as a child. For example, my earliest memory from my Christian school days was my 4 year old preschool class. I remember sitting in class doing one on one reading time with Mrs. Elaine. We would read our ABEKA readers, the short vowel ones. Things like "Pat sat on the mat." But I also remember at the end of reading time we recited our alphabet verses. I can still remember A through about D, and a few other letters. "A, 'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.' Romans 3:23". Scripture memory, felt board Bible lessons, and prayer journals are just a few examples that were a part of my everyday school life, starting from age 3 until 13! Now, I'm not going to pretend that I wasn't sheltered, I definitely was! I'm also not going to pretend that the real world wasn't a shock, it was! But I had something to fall back on. A solid foundation based in scripture that equipped me to handle the things in the world. Had my parents thrown me into that world at a younger age, I wouldn't have had the same strong foundation. As my children near the kindergarten age, I am becoming more aware of the ways that the "real world" sneaks into our daily lives - through TV, billboards, magazines, and simple trips to the grocery store. I find myself more and more convinced that sheltering my children for a period of time by sending them to a Christian school can only benefit them, especially when they are at an age when many important questions are being asked, and the world's answer is "What feels good to you?"

Lastly, there are some great public schools out there. As a parent, this can be a challenging decision. If there are highly regarded public schools, what can a Christian school offer my children? Through my own experiences growing up in Christian schools, I see such a tremendous benefit from receiving an education where Christ is the center of everything! This was one thing I loved most about my schooling--we found God in science, math, art, reading, and spelling! What an awesome experience for children - to know that their Maker can be found in every subject, lesson, and activity. Isn't this a struggle that many adults have in their daily lives? Where can I find God in my work, in my taxes, in my chores, and in the simple every day tasks of life? Christian education teaches and trains children to seek God in everything they do!

So, what did Christian education ever do for anybody? It led me right where I am now. Secure in my faith in Jesus Christ, and it helped to equip me to face the real world with a purpose. I am grateful that my parents enrolled me in a Christian school. So, be encouraged if you are a parent that currently has children enrolled at a Christian school. Stay the course, you will be blessed! And if you have not ever considered Christian education, I would greatly encourage you to consider it for your own children.

**SLOCS' CALENDAR**

5/3rd - 7th	SAT Testing
<b>5/6th</b>	<b>MANDATORY PARENT MEETING</b>
	<b>6:30 pm</b>
5/6	National Day of Prayer
5/9th	Mother's Day
5/13th	Pastor Appreciation Breakfast 8:00 am
5/20th	Lit—To—Life 6:30 pm
June 4th	Graduation Day