

QUESTION:

## A Mother-Teacher

The Winter, 1986, issue of *Perspectives in Covenant Education* did feature divergent "Viewpoints" on this subject, but I would like to add my opinion to those of the previous writers.

1. a genuine concern that God obligates a parent himself or herself to give academic instruction to the child — that children are given to parents to be educated, trained, and reared only by themselves and that delegating that responsibility should not be done?
2. the inability to meet the rising cost of tuition?
3. a complaint about the way the child is taught in the

remind our children again and again that they must show that they are Christians by the way that they treat each of their fellow saints. Fred Hanko

4. the inability of the child to adjust to certain conditions or to the school environment or to fellow students?

I would certainly hope that motives 2, 3, or 4 could be partially if not completely alleviated without resorting to "home schooling."

Secondly, I would have to know about the qualifications of the parent to provide instruction in the academic field. We are to be obedient to the laws of the land unless in direct opposition to the Word of God, and there are laws regarding the education of children by qualified persons.

There is also the emotional makeup of the educator to consider. It takes a disciplined, orderly person to see that the instruction is carried out faithfully. Can the parent find enough time to add this time-consuming job to the other home responsibilities? With few exceptions this instruction has to be given

each day; and if more than one child is to be taught, the responsibilities increase greatly. I have met parents who have great difficulty seeing to it that their children's home work is properly done.

Thirdly, I would be concerned that the child would miss the interaction, and the challenges that the school situation can provide. This interacting with one's classmates generates a wholesome excitement and interest. Life-long friendships are formed and strengthened through this daily fellowship. Also, will the home be able to give the child the many extras that are at the disposal of the teacher in the school?

Does "home schooling" insure a happier child, or perhaps one that might be more rebellious, complaining, or self-centered? In the school situation a child learns at an early age that there are many different kinds of people that make up the Church of Jesus Christ. Each teacher and each fellow student has his or her own strengths and weaknesses. God gives to each of His children a unique personality, and it

behooves us to learn early that we are called to bear with one another's weaknesses.

Yes, there are some parents who could take on these added responsibilities and do an excellent job. But we do have our own Protestant Reformed schools. Many grandparents and parents have made great sacrifices to attain and maintain them. We have God-fearing, concerned teachers who perhaps have also made sacrifices to be able to continue in the work that they feel called to do and that they enjoy doing. Teaching God's children has been my life, and I thank God for this great privilege. Is there nothing to be said for the communion of the saints? Shouldn't our children be participants in this day-to-day activity? I do not believe that isolation from other Christians of their own age is for the spiritual benefit of the children — and of the church.

There might be unusual circumstances that would make "home schooling" either necessary or preferable. But I would like to think that such cases are few and far between.

The growth of grace is the best evidence of the truth of it;  
things that have no life will not grow.

Thomas Watson