

Conclusion

Christian teaching exists because God is a teacher. Pazmiño in his excellent work, *God as Teacher*, concludes, "God as the creator is the educator from whom all content of education issues."¹⁹ The Lord's desire to communicate with His creation establishes the foundation of Christian education. God's self-revelation is the source of teaching. Therefore, the content of our teaching must be God's written revelation (the Bible).

We teach to change lives. Our goal is to see life as God does. We need to renew our understanding, to adjust our thoughts and actions so we can understand God's will (Rom 12:2). God's expectation is the same every time He teaches: complete obedience. Therefore, we must expect obedience to God's Word when we teach. Application, then, becomes central in Christian education. The goal is transformation not merely information. The purpose of our teaching must be communicating God's truth in ways that "create genuine understanding and the desire to change in accordance with God's self-revelation."²⁰ To follow God's example, we also need to be creative when we teach.

God helps us see the big picture of life and ministry. In Him we find meaning and purpose for everything we do. All aspects of the teaching ministry of the church center on God. Our theology affects our existence and service to the Lord. He desires to communicate with us and reign over us, as John Calvin concluded:

For how can the idea of God enter your mind without instantly giving rise to the thought, that since you are his workmanship, you are bound, by the very law of creation, to submit to his authority?—that your life is due to him?—that whatever you do ought to have reference to him? If so, it undoubtedly follows that your life is sadly corrupted, if it is not framed in obedience to him, since his will ought to be the law of our lives. On the other hand, your idea of his

nature is not clear unless you acknowledge him to be the origin and fountain of all goodness.²¹

Discussion Questions

1. Explain the relationship between theology and Christian education.
2. How does God's revelation affect the content of Christian teaching?
3. What methods does God use to teach today in comparison with the methods He used in both the Old and New Testaments?
4. Explain God's educational goal with the *Shema*.
5. Why is creativity important for a Christian teacher?

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- ¹⁹ R. W. Pazmiño, *God as Teacher: Theological Basis in Christian Education* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001), 33.
- ²⁰ M. Young, "Biblical Foundations for a Philosophy of Teaching," in *Evangelical Dictionary of Christian Education*, ed. M. Anthony (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001), 80.
- ²¹ J. Calvin and H. Beveridge, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Translation of: *Institutio Christianae religionis*. Reprint, with new introd. Originally published: Edinburgh: Calvin Translation Society, 1845–1846. (I, ii, 2) (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc, 1997).