

The Administrator's Handbook for Christian Schools

THE
ADMINISTRATOR'S
HANDBOOK FOR
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

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A dissertation submitted to Dr. Ken Talbot in candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Education from Whitefield Graduate Schools, Office of Academic Studies, Cary, North Carolina, Convocation 11, 2006.

Published by Canon Press
P. O. Box 8729, Moscow, ID 83843
800-488-2034 | www.canonpress.com

Larry Stephenson, *The Administrator's Handbook for Christian Schools*
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Cover design by Rachel Rosales.
Interior design by Jessica Evans.

Printed in the United States of America.

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available on the Canon Press website.

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

I dedicate this book to my family:
Kelly, Audrey, Lesley, Ty, and Darcey.
Love you and thank you for
all of your sacrifices for my calling.

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CHAPTER I

BIBLICAL MANDATE: THE ADMINISTRATOR'S HANDBOOK

*“The end result of all education is a worldview...
That worldview is either man-centered or God-centered.”¹*

What is a biblical mandate? How does it impact us as Administrators? A biblical mandate is a “charge” from an *authoritative God*; a God who has called us to the task of educational leadership—specifically to future generations. The leadership we must provide is not understood by the world, but has been modeled for us by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we faithfully respond to this call to imitate Christ, we must begin with a biblical premise in the education of all the students God has entrusted to our care. Scripture clearly and repeatedly indicates that children are to have a Christian education.² As parents seek to provide this, they entrust their children to our institutions where Christian principles, God’s Word, and excellent academics work together in obedience to this command.

Martin Luther once conveyed, “I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not increasingly occupied with the Word of God must become corrupt... I am much afraid that schools will prove to be the great gates of hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth.”³

With this in mind, we must begin with a purposed mission to provide an excellent education founded upon a biblical worldview. To effectually attain this ideal, we must:

- Graduate young men and women, who think clearly and listen carefully with discernment and understanding; to reason persuasively and articulate precisely; to be capable of evaluating their entire range of experience in the light of the scriptures; and who do so with eagerness in joyful submission to God.
- Desire our students to recognize cultural influences as distinct from biblical, and to be unswayed towards evil by the former.
- Aim to find our students well prepared in all situations, possessing both information and the knowledge of how to use it.

1 Glen Schultz, as quoted in Tammi Reed Ledbetter, “Christian Schools, Homeschooling Make Gains Among Southern Baptists,” BPNNews, March 12, 2003.

2 Eph 6:4. For this and all future scripture references, I will be using the New King James Version (NKJV).

3 David Feddes, “Christianity and Education,” *Banner of Truth: Biblical Christianity Through Literature*, http://www.bannerofruth.org/pages/articles/article_detail.php?152/ (accessed November 18, 2006).

- Desire our students be socially graceful and spiritually gracious; equipped with and understanding the tools of learning; desiring to grow in understanding, yet fully realizing the limitations and foolishness of the wisdom of this world.
- Desire our students have a heart for the lost and the courage to seek to dissuade those who are stumbling towards destruction; that they distinguish real religion from religion in form only; that they possess the former, knowing and loving the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Desire our students to possess all of the above with humility and gratitude to God.

It is vital to hold true to a statement of faith containing the key elements of Christianity established as your school's primary doctrine. These elements are to be unapologetically taught in various ways through all grade levels. All corporation members, Board members, and staff should subscribe to these foundational principles:

- The Bible is the only inerrant, authoritative Word of God.⁴
- There is one God, creator of all things, eternally existent in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent.⁵
- Belief in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.⁶
- For the salvation of lost and sinful men, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary.⁷
- Salvation is by grace through faith alone.⁸
- Faith without works is dead.⁹
- The belief in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.¹⁰
- Belief in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, they that are saved to the resurrection of life, and they that are lost to the resurrection of condemnation.¹¹
- Spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.¹²

Secondary or divisive doctrines and issues should *not* be presented as primary doctrine. Classroom discussion of secondary doctrine should be on an informative, non-partisan level. Teachers should be careful not to speak to the students regarding divisive doctrines in a manner

4 2 Tm 3:16

5 Dt 6:4; Gn 1:1; 1 Jn 5:7

6 Jn 10:30; Mt 1:18; Heb 4:15; Jn 10:32; Rom 3:25, Mt 28:6; Rom 8:34; Lk 21:27

7 Jn 3:3-8

8 Eph 2:8

9 Jas 2:17

10 Gal 5:16

11 1 Thes 4:16,17; 2 Thes 1:9

12 Jn 17:20-23