

# BICM202 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN THE CHURCH

## Introduction

A study of the educational process of the local church, with attention to aims, principles, leadership, planning, organization, and curriculum of a biblical ministry for all age groups. Once a student completes this course they will be able to:

- The student will see the need for a comprehensive church education process.
- The student will appreciate the complexity of creating and maintaining an intentional church education process.
- The student will utilize course material and textbook information to design a Christian education ministry.
- The student will recall and synthesize central educational and ministry concepts.

Why is Christian education important? Some teachers may stress the importance of giving their students information about God. Another teacher's focus might be informing his students about the Bible. Information about God and informing the students about the Bible are important aspects of Christian education, but the primary goal should be studying and dividing the Word of God, so that Christ will be formed in believers.

Paul writes to the Galatians that he is travailing until Christ is formed in them, *"My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you"* (Galatians 4:19).

The Greek word "formed" is *morphe* (Strong's G3444) which is from the base word G3313 meaning, "shape (through the idea of adjustment of parts); form." The phrase, "shape through the idea of adjustment," is probing. It calls to mind the idea of a blacksmith forging a piece of hot iron with a hammer on his anvil. Perhaps he is shoeing a horse or making a hinge. Patiently and repeatedly, he beats the hot metal with his blacksmith's hammer, dips it into the water tank to harden, and checks his modification. If it needs more adjustment, he repeats the process until the metal forms perfectly. As the blacksmith is in the natural, so the biblical teacher is in the spiritual, patiently and repeatedly forging the learner's mind with the knowledge of God until he forms to the stature of Christ.

Paul writes again to the believers at Ephesus explaining that one of the explicit purposes of the five-fold ministry is for the equipping and building up of the saints until they come into the knowledge of Christ and bear a likeness to His maturity (Ephesians 4:11-13). From these five-fold ministry gifts, that responsibility is partially relegated to the teacher

- to build up the students to have the same stature as Christ so that, according to I John 3:2, *“...when He shall appear, we shall be like Him...”*

Isaiah asks the relevant question, *“Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from milk, and drawn from the breasts...”* (Isaiah 28:9) The prophet mockingly answers his own question by skillfully comparing believers who are apathetic about applying themselves to learning to a toddler who is being weaned. If you are a parent, especially a mother, you know that a child being weaned from mother’s milk or the bottle is easily irritated, frustrated, and very emotional. This child is prone to sudden outbursts of crying and temper tantrums when he does not get his desire satisfied. The parents are patient with him because he is immature and has not learned how to control himself. As adults, we understand that he is only a baby and, as he has instruction, will grow into a mature man or woman.

As it is in the natural, so it is in the spiritual realm. The writer of Hebrews teaches us that *“every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”* (Hebrews 5:13-14) If we are to become a body of mature believers, we must apply ourselves to being taught and learning *“precept upon precept; line upon line; here a little, and there a little.”* (Isaiah 28:10) The office of teacher, as well as the position of learner, as described by Isaiah in chapter 28, is characterized by a resolute, lifetime commitment.

Anything less will result in spiritual deformity and abnormality...certainly not a form imitating the stature resembling Christ. Even with a quick glance, it is easy to observe that the body of Christ is not a form imitating Him. It is more like the child weaned from milk...prone to spiritual outbursts and immature fits of self-centeredness and irresponsibility, causing splits, factions, and divisions. If there was ever a need for sound biblical teachers it is now!

This course will not focus on the content of the Bible...there are many other courses that concentrate on the different aspects of biblical content. The purpose of this course is to give attention to what the educator does to teach that content. The teacher is the living link between the content and the students. The very heart of teaching is the way a teacher teaches that content. As a Christian educator, you want to become a life-changer...a teacher that loves teaching and that can help others love learning!

**Learn more by purchasing the entire course that covers the following topics:**

Lesson 1 - Introduction to Christian Education: Part 1

Lesson 2 - Introduction to Christian Education: Part 2

Lesson 3 - The Responsibility of Learning: Part 1

Lesson 4 - The Responsibility of Learning: Part 2

Lesson 5 - The Big "S-Five"

Lesson 6 - The Relationship Between Expectation and Education

Lesson 7 - Using the Power of Expectation to Nurture Students

Lesson 8 - Application for Life Change - God's Divine Teaching Purpose

Lesson 9 - Jesus Said, "Feed My Sheep": Part 1

Lesson 10 - Jesus Said, "Feed My Sheep": Part 2

Lesson 11 - False Teachers