



# Kingdom Education Network

**K.E.N. ONLINE NEWSLETTER**

March 2016

Volume 1, Issue 1

## KINGDOM EDUCATION – TRANSPORTATION AND DESTINATION

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For those who are teachers and/or parents, these next two statements will likely sound heretical. Academics are not the prime objective or destination of Christian/Kingdom schooling. Instead, academics can be likened to a vehicle that helps transport us on both a journey with and destination of restored relationship with God.

Consider the following: The very first thing God said to Adam and Eve was that they were to be fruitful in populating the earth with people who carried His image and likeness. Precisely because of that relationship this expanding population was to take dominion over the non-human environment. We see this interactive relationship played out as Adam was to use the language system God created to name the animals that He likewise created. Clearly, God wanted a co-laboring relationship with His sons and daughters. It was only natural then that their cool of the evening conversations would be quite delightful. From that interactive relationship the nonhuman environment was to be governed!

After the Fall, dominion-taking tasks were no longer conducted within the context of this divine relationship. This task-context dynamic was reversed. Consequentially, relationship restoration

became the primary task to be carried out within the context of exercising personal and environmental dominion in a sin-stained world (1 John 5:19). Moreover, because the embedded sin nature works to counter God's plans, post-fall humanity essentially abandoned the goal of restoring relationship with God. Mankind preferred instead to understand and manage God's creation without His help. Countering the effect of this perversion, the main focus in both the Old and New Testament time eras is primarily about relationship, not academic attainments. Psalm 78:7 makes it clear -- the central purpose of learning about God and His ways is to develop a complete, unwavering trust in Him. Everything was to flow from that.

Thus, academic attainments, while in service to the dominion mandate, constitute the occupying transportation to the larger eternal purpose of a life-long journey of intimacy with the Holy Trinity. Emphasizing this point, the outcomes of all temporal academic attainments will be burned up when Jesus returns to earth (2 Pet. 3:7-12) and until that time earth will not be relieved of its decay (Rom. 8:20-23) no matter how well studied, understood and managed. To think otherwise is

to diminish the purpose of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. His excruciating suffering was for the purpose of developing big hearts rather than primarily big brains. Paraphrasing an unknown author, if a person is totally wrong about being right with God, it will not personally matter from an eternal perspective what other things he or she is right about.

In accord with the biblical principle that the name of something typically signifies its identity and/or purpose, Christian/Kingdom education – because it carries His name - should reflect His identity and purpose. A kingdom after all, reflects its king! As near as we can tell, Jesus never taught academics but accomplished all His Kingdom works through a relationship with the Holy Spirit.

There you have it: Kingdom education should be equipping for operationalizing a spirit (2 Tim 1:7)

of love (Matt. 22:37-40), power (1 Cor. 4:20), and a sound mind (Rom 12:2; 1 Cor 2:16). Then and only then will it happen that the Kingdom of God and His will can fully be accomplished on earth just as it is in heaven. In fact, the pre-fall command to be reproductively fruitful is now recapitulated in the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20).

Academic endeavors while clearly important, ultimately serve as the occupying activity or vehicle to transport Christians through the all-important journey and destination of delightful intimacy with the Godhead.