

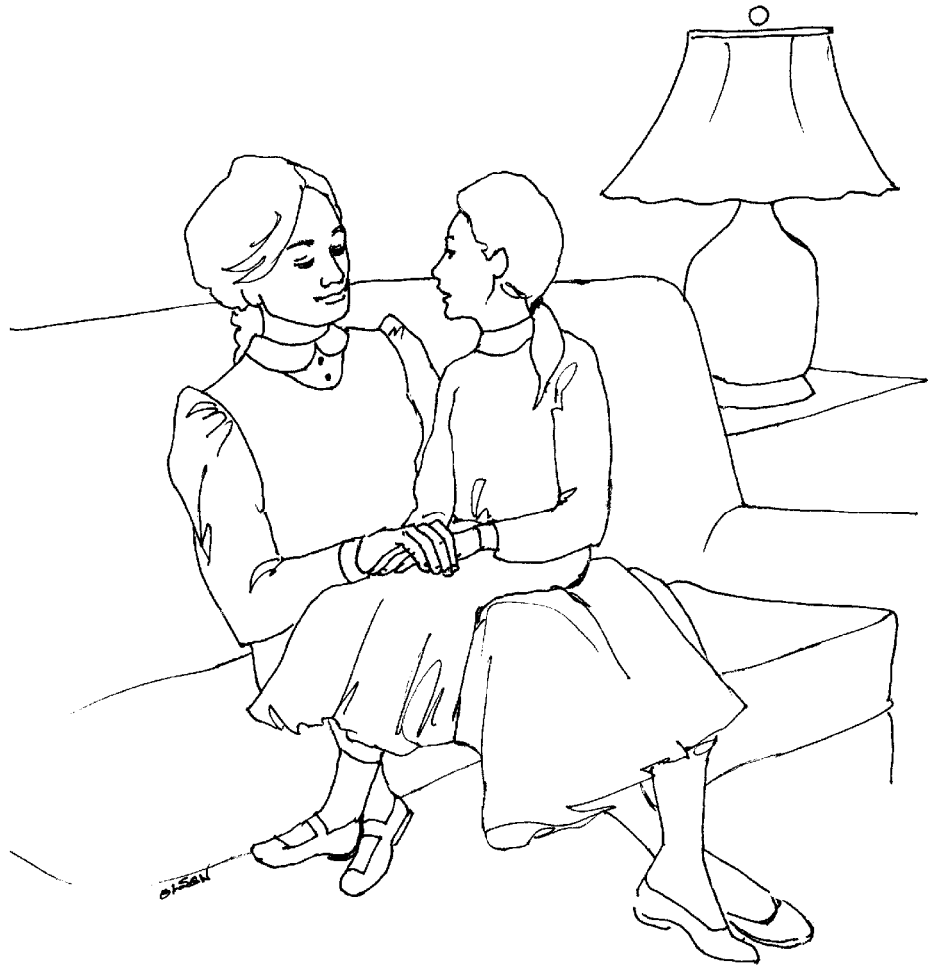
# Homeschool Education

Questions and Answers



“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts:  
and be ready always to give an answer to every man  
that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you  
with meekness and fear.”

I Peter 3:15



Produced by SEM  
(509) 684-6843

© Copyright 1991  
SonLight Education Ministry  
P.O. Box 518  
Colville, WA 99114

# Home School Education

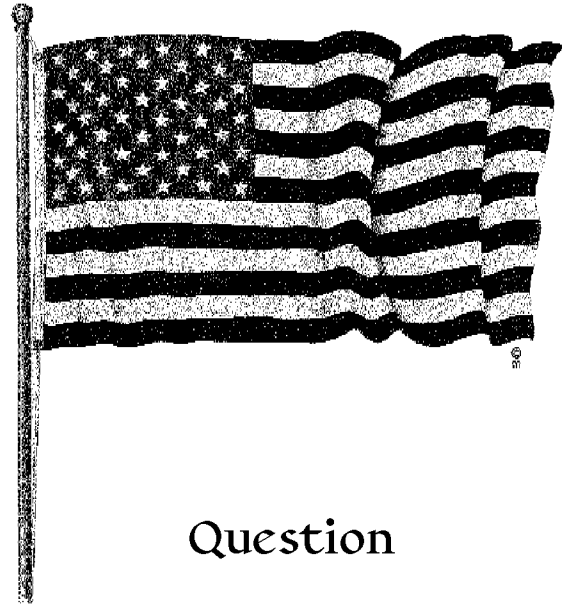
Some Commonly Asked Questions About Homeschool

## Question

### 1. Why homeschool?

## Answer

1. God has commanded parents (not strangers) to teach and explain His testimony and law to their children. Since the Bible is to be the foundation of our education, we must follow its counsel. Parents are to teach history from the Bible, language from the Bible, science from the Bible, and music from the Bible— when *“thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up”* (Deuteronomy 6:7).



## Question

### 2. Is homeschool legal?

## Answer

2. *“Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s”* (Matthew 22:21). Each state has its own set of educational laws which are considerably different. But homeschooling is legal in every state. We encourage parents to study from the Bible their responsibility regarding His children, God’s plan for true education, and His counsel concerning government. Based on these, make your decision as to whether you can register, and how much you can work with the state.

For more information on educational laws in each state contact:

**Your local library  
in the town or city near you.**

### Question

**3. Are parents qualified to teach their children?**

### Answer

3. God says parents are qualified to teach children, and commands them to do so. (See Deuteronomy 6:6-7.) It requires dedication, unselfishness, and the wisdom of God, which He will abundantly supply (James 1:5-7). God has made the family His basic training institution. It is His desire for parents to accept the responsibility of teaching and training their children, and He will enable them to succeed.

### Question

**4. Will the child be deprived of social interaction with other children?**

### Answer

4. A child will learn to identify with those with whom he spends the most time. *“By beholding we become changed.”* An average day of a child attending a local school is:

School	7 to 8 hours
Baby-sitters	2 to 3 hours
Parents	2 to 3 hours
Sleeping	7 to 9 hours

Is it any wonder this society has so many parent-child problems? The question is, do we want our children to learn another lifestyle or the one God calls our family to?

Popular opinion assumes that children need long periods of interaction with their peer groups to acquire social skills. However, many authorities in this field would disagree with this idea. This kind of socialization causes peer dependency and a low self-image. The benefits of home school are:

- godly character development
- a true system of Christian values
- freedom from peer pressure

- independent thinking
- relating well to people of all ages
- self-confidence as God directs
- better family relations

Who is more social than father, mother, brothers, sisters, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, and family friends?

### Question

**5. How much time does it take?**

### Answer

5. *“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven”* (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Our time belongs to God and of no talent will He require a more strict accounting than our time. There will be a time commitment in home schooling. Parents need to make an organized schedule, putting their priorities in proper order. Basically parents should allot a time for classroom teaching, although the time required varies according to the methods used, ages of children, and how many children are in the family. You should spend about three hours in the classroom.

### Question

**6. How can parents teach several children at once?**

### Answer

6. By using the Bible as the base of all subjects, parents may have all the children begin together, adapting assignments to each level as needed. Many classes can be worked together. Older children can also be productive teacher’s helpers with the younger children, causing them to review past school work. Use multilevel curriculum where all work together. See SonLight’s multilevel curriculum.

### Question

**7. What materials are available?**

### Answer

7. Much good information is available for homeschooling. Write to SonLight Education Ministry, P.O. Box 518, Colville, WA 99114, or call (509) 684-6843. Be sure to state the ages and grades of your children.

SonLight Homeschool materials and books are free to anyone who would like to use it. Contact (email-[sonlighted@theofficenet.com](mailto:sonlighted@theofficenet.com)).

### Question

**8. What about my child's special interests?**

### Answer

8. Develop the special interests of your child. Provide field trips, missionary projects, godly friends with special skills, and music lessons. However, teaching the special skills of the parents to their own children will be the most valuable of all in their development.

### Question

9. Would it not be better to let the children stay in government or church schools to witness?

### Answer

9. Your children will be influenced by the majority rather than be a testimony to them. Teachers and peers "witness" also by poor language, improper music, unacceptable lifestyles, or wrong attitudes. Our first concern is to develop our children with a godly character and to then preserve them for the greater heritage of eternal life. They will need witnessing opportunities, which are very easy to provide.

### Question

**10. Are homeschooled students accepted in college?**

### Answer

10. By taking the proper tests, homeschooled students can be eligible for college or trade schools. It would be even better to find a school of the prophets for the training of your young people, or an apprenticeship with other godly Christians.

### Question

**11. What are the most common difficulties in homeschooling?**

### Answer

11. The following are the most common difficulties for parents:

- Lack of confidence
- Fear of being able to work with their own children
- Not enough time and energy
- Lack of commitment
- Pressure from well-meaning friends or relatives

- Financial investment
- Teaching more than one child
- What to do with preschool children while teaching older ones

“I can do all things  
through Christ  
which strengtheneth me.”  
Philippians 4:13

### Question

**12. At what age should a child begin education?**

### Answer

12. Education begins at birth and continues as long as the child is in the parents’ care. Formal education can begin with a simple preschool program and then at age 8-10 (depending on the child), a Bible-centered curriculum can be used.

### Question

**13. What is the best schedule?**

### Answer

13. The best schedule realizes that

education takes place all through the day. (See the enclosed suggested schedule under the section called “The Classroom, Order, and Records.”)

### Question

**14. What about sports and competition?**

### Answer

14. What is the motivating power of a Christian? *“For the love of Christ constraineth us....”* (II Corinthians 5:14). Love is the great power that moves the Christian, urging him onward to the heights of accomplishment.

What does *“constraineth”* mean? The dictionary and *Strong’s Concordance* says “to compel or to urge with a power sufficient to produce the effect.” This word roots in the Greek from a word meaning “union by association, companionship, process, resemblance, and completeness.”

This love has only one Source, and it is only by association and companionship with Him that His love urges us on.

There are only two motivating forces in this life:

Love	Rivalry
The love of man to man, especially the love of Christians toward God.	Trying to get the same thing as another by attempting to equal or excel.
Love develops:	Rivalry develops:
dependence on God kindness honesty submission productivity helpfulness loyalty generosity cooperation justice appreciation unselfishness	self-reliance unkindness, hatred dishonesty independence calculation ambition for self, suspicion betrayal, undermining, envy self-indulgent strife injustice jealousy selfishness

**Think of other words that describe love and rivalry.**

## Rivalry or Competition

Sin has marred God's perfect work. All through nature we see the spirit of rivalry, fighting, eating each other, pushing others out of the way to survive. The same principle exists with man, pushing others out of the way to help oneself. Sometimes it is a "friendly" game and other times it is "to the death." Sin originated with Lucifer in self-seeking, and a desire to be first. (See Isaiah 14:12-16.) Jesus did nothing in rivalry, and His followers must exhibit the same spirit. John the Baptist exemplified this principle, when his disciples were contending with Jesus' disciples, John said, "*He must increase, but I must decrease*" (John 3:30).



In true education there is no place for selfish rivalry. “...*But they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise*” (II Corinthians 10:12). When we do anything it is to be done “*as of the ability which God giveth*” (I Peter 4:11). It will be done “*heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ*” (Colossians 3:23-24). Many children are trained from childhood to engage in rivalry, which fosters selfishness, the root of all evil.

Do you want someone else’s place? Do you want to fight to obtain it? No, never! We want only the work and place that God has assigned for each of us.

Many measure themselves among themselves, comparing their view with one another. We have been given one pattern, one example, and one measuring rod, and that is Christ. When we compare ourselves with “the winner” we are saying we are the losers. But as co-workers with Christ, each with different abilities, we are all winners in Christ.

The comment is made that children will not learn to be good losers, or learn sportsmanship, if

not given that opportunity. I have never seen children learn that lesson!

What is sportsmanship? A person who is a good loser, and a modest winner. Have you ever met such a person?

When a coach says to the players: “Go get them, hit hard, break them, smash them, get the game, but be good sports!” Does this align itself with God’s method of “*in honour preferring one another*” (Romans 12:10)?

God does not want us to be good losers. The devil says “not everyone can win all of the time, so be content with failure part of the time.” Never! In Christ all may win all of the time. Our students need to understand the nature of the two opposing principles that are contending for supremacy in their lives. They can study these in history, and prophecy. They can see the two forces working and respond with a firmness that will decide their eternal destiny.

Strife and rivalry for position (such as Satan manifested in heaven) are the result of a false system of education. Stress-related physical and emotional problems may result from competition in school and work.

In thinking about sports and competition, the following questions need to be considered:

**What is the basis of comparison?**

*“For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise” (II Corinthians 10:12).*

**What entitles one to honor?**

*“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen” (I Peter 4:11).*

*“Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye service, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:*

*“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;*

*“Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ” (Colossians 3:22-24).*

**Where does each look for reward?**

*“Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward” (Matthew 6:2).*

*“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be” (Revelation 22:12).*

**If I win, what is the effect upon others?**

*“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others” (Philippians 2:4).*

**Is love a powerful enough motive to move people to do something?**

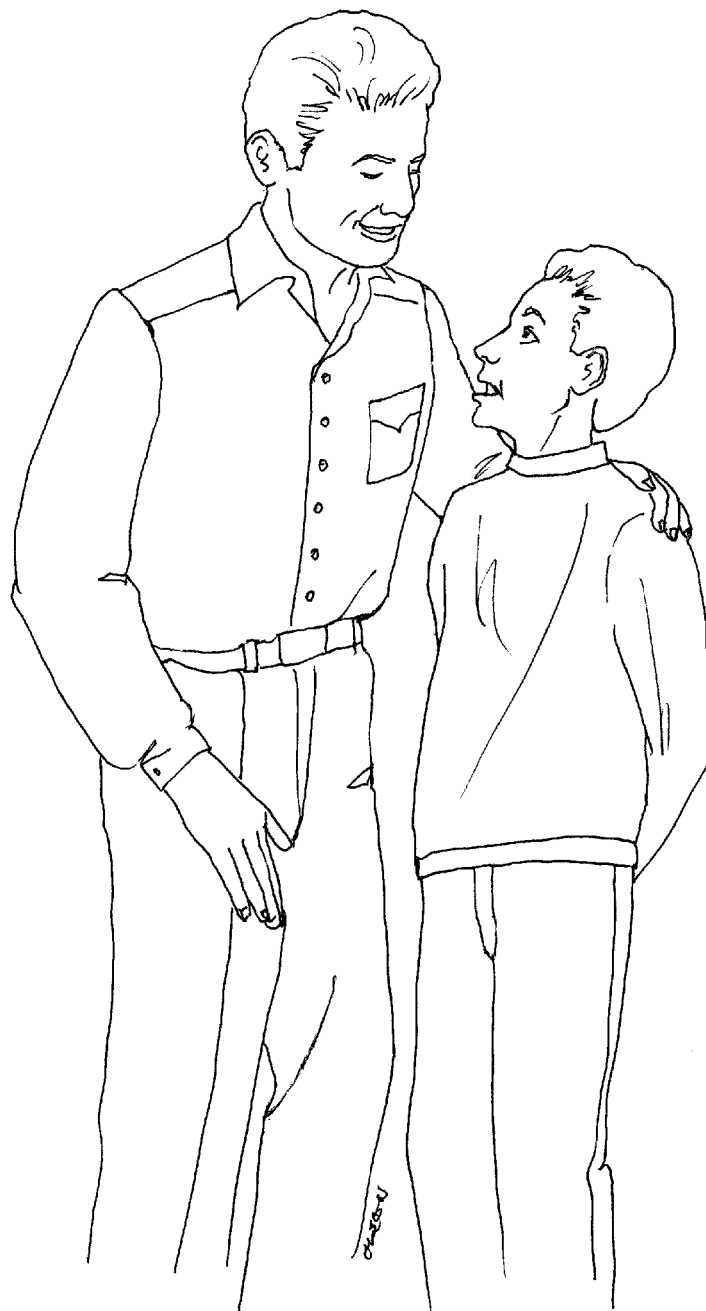
**Yes!**

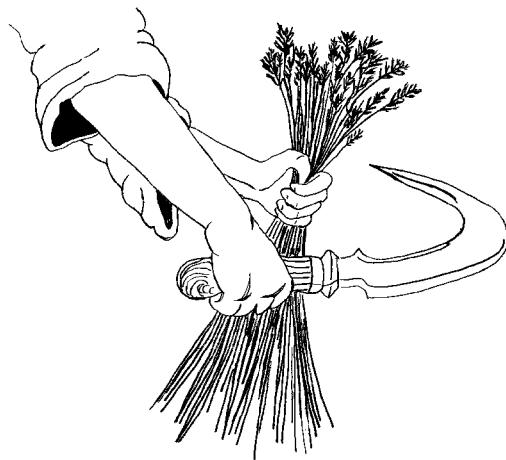
Read this book.

*Who Is The Greatest? by Arthur W. Spalding*  
This book is available through SonLight.

“The heart of the righteous  
studieth to answer:  
but the mouth of the wicked  
poureth out evil things.”

Proverbs 15:28





Mark 4:29