**Why Christian Education?**

**By Karen DeBruin**

As a parent, talking to parents, making a choice about education is one of the most difficult, thoroughly researched, and intensely discussed decisions for a family with children from pre-school through college.

Why do parents wrestle? I believe it is because they recognize the value of knowledge, the necessity of a being able to apply that knowledge wisely, and the desire for their children to be successful, productive members of society. Yet for Christian parents, the struggle intensifies as they understand the importance of shaping their children’s minds *and* hearts to be transforming instruments in an increasingly secular society. Furthermore, many Christian parents recognize the consequences of neglecting their responsibility to “Train a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”(Proverbs 22:6).

Why Christian Education?

When Christian parents evaluate education, they recognize the importance of shaping both the mind *and* heart of their children. We are called in Romans 12:2, as individuals and Christian parents to “not be **conform**ed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Education in a secular environment cannot support parents in their role to nurture non-conformity to the world and the renewal of their children’s minds so they may seek and discern God’s will.

At Trinity Academy, we believe that Christian Education should be the extension of the home and church. God gives parents the responsibility for educating their children’s hearts and minds (Deut 6: 4-6, Prov 22:6, Eph 6:4). The Christian school is an extension of the Biblical truth taught at home and in the church and should indeed challenge students to be transformed by the renewal of their minds. As students gain knowledge of various content areas, they also develop godly wisdom for how that knowledge is applied in a Christ-like way to the world around them. As students learn that all truth is God’s truth, they develop a standard of truth with which they encounter and engage with culture; therefore becoming transforming agents in the world they live.

Christian schools integrate Biblical truth with content rich instruction, enabling students to recognize the Lordship of Christ and our need to respond in obedience to him. Students are encouraged to hold every thought captive for Christ and think, work, discern, and act out of obedience to our Lord and redeemer. Students at Trinity Academy are challenged then to love the Lord their God, with all their heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30) in order to love and enjoy God forever.

As a parent, talking to parents about the education of their children, I am grateful for the opportunity at Trinity Academy to invest in the lives of my children, to make an eternal difference in them and the part of the world God calls them to transform.