

CHOOSING LEADERS WHO STRENGTHEN EDUCATION AND PROMOTE HUMAN FLOURISHING

CHURCH AMBASSADOR NETWORK
INITIATIVE OF THE FAMILY LEADER® FOUNDATION

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Government is an institution established by God for our good (Romans 13:1–7). One of its God-given responsibilities is to serve people and promote the conditions in which communities can flourish. Education has long played a central role in preparing the next generation, strengthening families, and building healthy communities.

Because the future depends on the next generation, Christians should seek leaders who recognize the importance of education, respect the God-given responsibility of parents, and pursue policies that provide children with the opportunity to learn, grow, and flourish.

SIX BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR CHOOSING LEADERS WHO SUPPORT STRONG EDUCATION

1 Parents Have the Responsibility for Their Children's Education

> *"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."* **DEUTERONOMY 6:6–7 (ESV)**

Scripture places the responsibility for the teaching and training of children with parents. Parents are called to instruct their children and guide them in every area of life.

While schools, churches, and communities can assist families in educating children, they do not replace the responsibility God has given to parents. Parents have both a deep interest in their children's success and the God-given responsibility to guide their development and education.

A healthy education system should recognize, respect, and encourage parents' responsibility to direct the education of their own children..

Choose leaders who recognize that parents have the God-given responsibility to educate their children and who support parents as they choose the best educational path for their children.

2 Education Should Prepare Children for a Flourishing Life

> *"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."* **PROVERBS 22:6 (ESV)**

Education is an important tool for preparing the next generation for life. Children need more than knowledge; they need wisdom, practical skills, character, and a desire to continue learning throughout their lives.

A strong education system should assist parents in building a foundation upon which children can build as they become adults. It should cultivate curiosity, inspire a sense of wonder, and equip students with the skills necessary to contribute to their families, workplaces, churches, and communities.

The goal of education should extend beyond academic achievement alone. Education should help prepare young people to live responsible and productive lives and to use their gifts for the good of others.

Choose leaders who support an education system that prepares children with the knowledge, skills, and character needed for lifelong flourishing.

3 Government Was Designed to Serve People

> *"For he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer."* **ROMANS 13:4 (ESV)**

Government exists to serve people and promote their good. Educational institutions and policies should therefore be evaluated according to how well they serve children, families, and communities.

Institutions are important, but they exist to serve people. When government makes decisions about education, the interests of students and families should remain at the center.

A healthy education system should be accountable to the people it serves and should continually seek ways to help children receive the education they need to flourish.

Choose leaders who believe educational institutions should serve children and families and who place the needs of people above the interests of institutions.

4 Children Have Physical and Spiritual Needs

> *"It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, 'The first man Adam became a living being'; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven."*
> **1 Corinthians 15:44–47 (ESV)**

The Bible teaches that people are both physical and spiritual beings. As a result, people have both physical and spiritual needs.

Education should recognize and account for the physical and spiritual dimensions of a child's development. Families, churches, schools, and communities all play important roles in helping children develop and flourish.

Parents have a particularly important responsibility in the moral and spiritual formation of their children. Government should respect the role of families and recognize that education takes place within a broader community of institutions that help shape the next generation.

Choose leaders who recognize the importance of the whole child and who respect the role of parents, families, churches, and communities in the formation of the next generation.

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5 Strong Education Strengthens Communities

> *"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."*
> **JEREMIAH 29:7 (ESV)**

God calls His people to seek the welfare of the communities in which they live. One of the most important ways a community prepares for its future is by investing in the next generation.

Schools often stand at the center of communities, helping prepare the next generation. The strength of tomorrow's communities is closely connected to how well today's children are prepared.

Christians should therefore care about education not only because of its impact on individual children, but because strong families, strong schools, and strong communities are interconnected.

Choose leaders who recognize the importance of education in strengthening families and communities and preparing the next generation for the future.

6 God Calls Us to Consider the Needs of the Poor and Vulnerable

"For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'" **Deuteronomy 15:11 (ESV)**

"And if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, 'You sit here in a good place,' while you say to the poor man, 'You stand over there,' or, 'Sit down at my feet,' have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?" **James 2:3–4 (ESV)**

Not every child has access to the same opportunities. Some children grow up in families facing economic hardship, instability, or limited access to educational resources. These circumstances can create significant barriers to a child's ability to learn and flourish.

As government leaders build an education system, they must recognize the obstacles some children face and seek ways to ensure that economic circumstances do not unnecessarily limit a child's opportunity to develop their God-given abilities.

Choose leaders who consider the needs of poor and vulnerable children and who seek to expand meaningful educational opportunities for every family.

AS YOU PREPARE TO VOTE

Prayerfully ask yourself :

- Does this candidate recognize that parents have the God-given responsibility and authority to direct the education of their children?
- Does this candidate support an education system that prepares children for lifelong success and flourishing?
- Does this candidate believe government and educational institutions should serve children and families?
- Does this candidate recognize the importance of the physical, relational, moral, and spiritual formation of children?
- Will this candidate pursue policies that strengthen families and communities through strong education?
- Does this candidate consider the needs of poor and vulnerable children and families?
- Choose leaders who respect the God-given responsibility of parents, serve families, strengthen communities, and seek an education system that helps every child develop their God-given potential and prepare for a flourishing life.