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Editorial

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Editorial

The purpose of Christian education is to prepare covenant young people for service in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

This is a statement which is often used correctly to describe the calling and function of the Christian school in the context of the broader Christian community. It is a statement which appears in slightly different form in "The Implications of a Reformed Biblical View of Life for Education: A Restatement," by Jack Fennema and Larry Reynolds.

The task God assigned to man in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 1:28) establishes not only the ultimate purpose for man's existence but also the purpose for Christian education. Man's task is to work in and develop God's creation in faithful obedience to His Word, and the school's function is to nurture and equip the student for that task. (p. 4)

I do not wish to argue or quarrel with this assertion. On the contrary, I agree whole-heartedly and feel that Fennema and Reynolds have stated the case clearly and eloquently.

Nevertheless, I believe that there is a danger in saying only this and nothing more. If we say only that Christian education is preparation for Kingdom service, we are implying that Christian education itself is not Kingdom service. In the process, we are allowing students from grade school through high school and into college to suppose that their schooling is only an interim arrangement prior to the time when they must engage in serious work and service for their King. This being the case, we need not be surprised if students do poor work (or no work at all) and fail to take their Christian education seriously.

I am not suggesting that Fennema and Reynolds would deny that Christian education is Kingdom service. I am simply saying that this truth too must be emphasized. School work is Kingdom work. It is an assignment from the King. It must be done in obedience to the King. Students must be told this so that they will be led to work hard and well in school for the sake of Jesus Christ. And we as teachers must be reminded of this so that we may be led to work hard and well for the same reason. Pro Rege!

J.B. Hulst