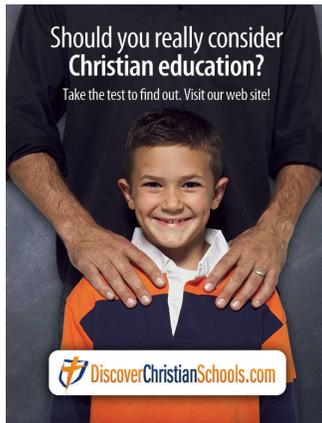


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June 2008



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## Reflections on Character Education

**Deb Gahman, Hamilton Strategies**

*Deb recently joined Hamilton Strategies after 23 years as a Christian School educator.*

There's a lot of talk these days about Character Education and the teaching of Ethics in school and in the workplace. In fact, many public schools have not only opted to cover these topics, but have now officially included them in the school district curriculum.

In her article, "What Happened to Ethics?" Vicki Salemi quotes a business school professional, a co-founder of a training and consulting firm, and an MBA student at a major university. The common thread in their comments is that the core of ethics is being a good citizen by being truthful and choosing right over wrong which leads to the creation of good corporate citizens.

In addition to teaching young adults the importance of honesty in the business world and in all of life's avenues, these sources were quoted as saying the following:

**on servant leadership** - "the decision to serve rather than to be served is key to effective leadership...We teach students that sometimes when the numbers look right, the decision is still wrong. A lot of ethics are instilled by operating on a set of values."

*-Kenneth Blanchard, co-founder of The Ken Blanchard Companies*

**on ethics** - "We teach it as a hard right instead of the easy wrong...We teach them to frequently flex the ethical muscle so when they graduate and enter the work force it becomes second nature."

*-Paul Fiorelli, Xavier University*

**on doing the right thing** - "Ethics shape how we ought to behave as an employee, a friend, a co-worker, a citizen [and as] a person."-Casey Field, M.B.A. student, Villanova University

While I agree that we need to teach and train young people how to exhibit ethical behavior in all of life, and I applaud those who have devoted their time and talents to doing just that, I have to wonder about the values on which they base the training.

Years ago, most people agreed upon right and wrong in our society, and on the consequences that went along with making wrong choices. Today, however, it is increasingly difficult to find those who will stand up for truth that is based on God's Word. In an effort to promote equality in our society, the black and white of lies and truth has been watered down to a muddled gray, leaving the door of ethics wide open for interpretation. Whose ethics are we teaching?

This is where the importance of an education based on God's Truth is invaluable. Not only do we want to train our children in the truth at home, but it is becoming increasingly apparent that our children are in need of training in character development and ethics at school.

Now, the question is, do you know the central driving force in the values system of your child's educators? Is it the one true God to whom you have entrusted your life? When your child is faced with a dilemma about right and wrong at school, is there someone he can go to who will base their advice and guidance on the teachings of the God of the universe? Do you have the assurance that your child is in the presence of teachers who will lead them in godly ways throughout their interactions with peers? If you answered yes to all of these questions, you must be the parent of a child who attends a Christian school.

To read Vicki Salezni's article in its entirety, go to:

<http://encarta.msn.com/encnet/Departments/eLearning/Default.aspx?article=WhatHappenedEthics&GT1=27001>

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## Don't Lose Ground

Now that summer is upon us, and our children are looking forward to some fun in the sun, why not consider giving them a great Christian camp experience? Many churches and Daycares offer a variety of camp venues from one week Bible School programs or day camps in your local area to overnight camping away from home. Many a Christian can tell you a story of how "church camp" impacted their lives for Christ. No matter which program you choose, your child will be sure to enjoy the fun and camaraderie, while you may see the fruit for years to come.

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## DCS in the News

In addition to the states already receiving the Christian Education Commentary, we are now sending it to Christian radio stations in New Jersey, New York, Texas, Colorado, California, Oregon, and Washington. Ask your local Christian radio station to carry these very informative and important Christian Education Commentaries. For more information, contact Deborah Hamilton at [dhamilton@HamiltonStrategies.com](mailto:dhamilton@HamiltonStrategies.com) or 610-584-1096.

[Click here to see a location map for these stations.](#)

### Delaware

WJBR FM – Wilmington  
WXHL FM – Wilmington

### Maryland

WCRH FM – Williamsport  
WICO FM – Salisbury  
WRBS AM & FM - Baltimore

### New Jersey

WIBG AM – Ocean City  
WJPH FM – Woodbine  
WSJI FM – Cherry Hill

### New York

WIHR FM - Jamestown

### Pennsylvania

WBYO FM - Sellersville  
WRIJ FM – Pittsburgh  
WPCL FM – North Cambria  
WTMV – Youngsville  
WPGM FM – Danville  
WPEL FM – Montrose  
WJSA FM – Jersey Shore  
WBYN FM - Reading  
WJCS FM – Allentown  
WPIC FM – Hermitage  
WDBA FM – DuBois  
WHJB FM - Bedford

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## Christian Education Commentary

*A Weekly Radio Spot with Harold Naylor*

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### **Listeners Respond...**

*Faye Sorterup (in response to Christian Education Commentary)*

Thank you for today's comment. I never thought of that verse in that manner. I am so thankful that my children attend a Christian school and are learning from godly men and women. Thank you!

In Christ,  
Faye

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### **Readers Respond...**

*Shawn Hill, Christian school parent in Humble, Texas*

"...another great story about the usage of the Discover Christian Schools website. I have a coworker who was contemplating sending his kids to a Christian school, but was getting some resistance from his wife. It was a money issue, which would require the wife to get a job. Since she was adamant about not wanting to work, he was just about ready to dismiss the whole idea. I talked to him and introduced him to the website, which he reviewed and immediately passed on to his wife. She read through it and apparently felt convicted and agreed to look for a job. Well, you'll never guess what happened. She ended up landing a position at the Christian school in which they were wanting to enroll their kids. The problem was the pay still wouldn't cover the additional cost. Here's the kicker. Unbeknownst to them, the position came with a 50% reduction in each child's tuition. This finally allowed them to enroll their kids in the Christian school. Praise God! It's just amazing to see Him work in peoples lives."

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### **DCS Membership**

*Continuing to Grow*

DCS now has over 7,000 Christian Schools from across the U.S. featured on our website.

Look up Christian schools in your area at [www.DiscoverChristianSchools.com](http://www.DiscoverChristianSchools.com) and click on the "School Finder" at the bottom of the page!

If you are a school and would like to sign up as a DCS member, send us an email. Just go to [www.DiscoverChristianSchools.com](http://www.DiscoverChristianSchools.com) and click on "Contact Us". We'll get you on board while parents are looking for schools this summer!

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**"We need religion as a guide. We need it because we are imperfect, and our government needs the church, because only those humble enough to admit they're sinners can bring to democracy the tolerance it requires in order to survive."**

**– President Ronald Reagan**

**We hope you have enjoyed this issue of "E-Connect!"  
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