Parent-Teacher Conferences

What's in it for Parents?

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The purpose of parent-teacher conferences has to be to allow for communication between parents and teachers. Both parents are vitally interested in the well-being and performance of children in the classroom. Parents often come away from conferences with teachers with a renewed sense that teachers *are* concerned about the children. I've been to many conferences, and if there's one thing that never fails to impress me it's the fact that teachers *care*.

Without conferences, the only gauge that a parent has to measure the success of the student is the occasional report card. While that is certainly something of a measurement of academic progress, Christian parents are also concerned with a number of other aspects of a child's development.

Parent-teacher conferences provide the parent with a good opportunity to inquire about areas such as the spirituality and the social development of a child. Parents can and should use the opportunity of conferences to inquire of the teacher regarding the child's attitude towards others, school in general, and his receptivity to the religious and spiritual slant given to the material presented.

I think it's good that conferences are held in the classroom where the student spends his school day. It gives the parent an opportunity physically to see and appreciate the world of a school-age child. I'm always impressed that the classroom is so small and

closed. For a child it's a big world in a big classroom at a big school. To a parent, it's a small room with a teacher and some little desks. Often times in the hustle of the work-a-day world it's easy to forget about the kids in school. For a parent to go physically to the classroom serves to remind him that his children are yet children being taught much the same as the parent was – but the parent doesn't think about it. The world of parents is a long way from the world of school children.

I've come to appreciate the teacher who is prepared for conferences. My goal in a conference with a teacher is to determine if my child is working at his capacity and if he is living a sanctified life among his peer group. I usually find out the answers to these questions and there often is a sense of relief on my part to know that things are handled on the school front much the same way as on the home front.

Through parent-teacher conferences, I have developed a respect for the abilities of our Christian school teachers. I have a respect for their concern and dedication to the calling of instructing our covenant children. I believe our teachers have a sense of responsibility to that calling that exceeds the academic. Teachers care. One way to observe that is to go to parent-teacher conferences.