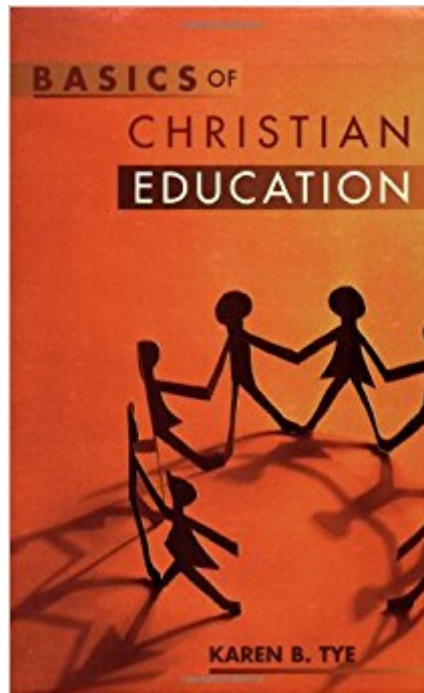




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# Basics Of Christian Education



## Synopsis

Congregations are always struggling with what quality Christian education is and how to build and maintain it. In this concise and easy-to-use guide, Karen Tye offers practical help, addressing the vital areas that need attention when planning for and building a Christian education program. Questions and exercises at the end of each chapter help pastors, Christian educators, seminary students, and laity apply the information to their own unique setting, building on the basics to renew and transform Christian education.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Karen B. Tye is professor emerita at Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. She conducts workshops throughout the United States and is the author of *Basics of Christian Education and Your Calling as a Teacher* and is coauthor of *Teaching the Bible in the Church* from Chalice Press.

This is not a step-by-step "How To" book. Instead, Tye organizes the kaleidoscope of swirling and sometimes disjointed ideas most of us find confusing when we think about Christian education. She creates a clear, coherent framework for these topics so that we can see how they are related. Her writing is crystal clear and a pleasure to read. Each chapter contains a good summary and exercises for reflection and application. A bibliography of further readings and section of notes for each chapter appear at the end of the book. There is no index, but one isn't really needed. This book is among the best written I have seen on any educational topic. There were some surprises for me. For example, in discussing "context", she mentions the "null curriculum--what churches decide

not to teach. This helps to define what churches are willing to think about, and thus to define the nature of the particular faith community. (Think for example of a church that avoids teaching social issues.) Similarly, Chapter 3 ("Purpose: Why Do We Educate?") steps away from the conventional answers to see a larger perspective of what is supposed to be accomplished--ensuring continuity of the community while embracing necessary change required by new circumstances. When she discusses content in Chapter 4, she discusses four "myths" that may confuse us. At first glance these myths are what many of us would consider to be appropriate content, but Tye then shows us that those myths often disguise superficial thinking. Chapter 5 ("Participants: Whom Do We Educate") was the only chapter that I found a bit technical, but Tye's material was still clearly presented. If you are personally involved in planning or execution of a Christian education program, you will find yourself thinking very differently about what you are doing after you have read this book compared to what you thought before.

Fast and the book arrived the way it was described.

Thanks, this book was in excellent condition, will order again

The book was not a book that details one specific purpose for Christian Education. It gives numerous stories on what people think Christian Education is. The book was hard to follow and left me very confused with no real purpose, maybe others will get more out of the book.

Interesting viewpoint for a Christian Education program.

book written in very plain, easy to read language. Not boring at all. I read the first 4 chapters the day I got it. An excellent must-have book for those interested in working in the Christian Education department at church as well as for pastors interested in making sure that their parishioners are being properly "fed."

I loved the simplicity in her writing and how she took such a complex subject and simplified the topic.

This was an excellent read! Easy to digest and practical for executing. I highly recommend it to clergy and laity.

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