



## Building Strong Faith: with the Theological Basis of Christian Education as the Basis of Life in Facing the Challenges of the Age with Solid Biblical Values

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### Abstract

In the face of increasingly complex social, cultural, and technological dynamics, Christian education has a strategic role in forming a solid faith. The theological foundation of Christian education not only functions as a transfer of knowledge, but also as a means of spiritual transformation for believers to remain steadfast in facing the challenges of the times. This research aims to analyze how Christian education can be the main foundation in building a character based on solid biblical values. This study uses a literature study method with a qualitative approach to explore and analyze various academic literature related to Christian educational theology. Data sources consist of theological books, scientific journals, ecclesiastical documents, and relevant previous research. The data obtained were analyzed using content analysis and hermeneutic techniques, which aimed to identify patterns and meanings in academic texts and apply biblical principles in the context of Christian education. The results of the study show that Christian education plays an important role in building the character and resilience of the faith of believers. Values such as love, perseverance, integrity, and truth must be integral to the Christian educational curriculum so that students can develop a mindset that is in harmony with the teachings of Christ. In addition, the use of technology in Christian education has also proven to be effective in increasing the involvement of the younger generation in spiritual learning. With a holistic approach and based on biblical values, Christian education can be an effective tool in shaping individuals who are ready to face the challenges of the times.



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### INTRODUCTION

In the face of modern-day challenges filled with social, cultural, and technological dynamics, the Christian faith must remain firmly rooted in biblical values. Christian education has a strategic role in forming a strong faith, not only in the aspect of knowledge but also in the transformation of character in accordance with the teachings of Christ (Saingo, 2023). The theological foundations of Christian education provide direction and meaning for each individual to live a life in harmony with

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the truth of God's word and build spiritual resilience capable of facing various challenges (Gulo & Salurante, 2023). In this context, biblical values must be used as the main principle in shaping the mindset and actions of Christians, especially in maintaining the steadfastness of faith in the midst of globalization which often brings secularization (Sawan & Payong, 2023).

Theology of Christian Education is a study that connects theological principles with the educational process in the context of the Christian faith. Christian education not only aims to provide academic knowledge, but also to form character and moral values based on the teachings of the Bible. According to Gulo and Salurante (2023), Christian education must be rooted in a strong theological understanding in order to be able to face the challenges of the times, including in the modern era which is full of cultural and technological changes. In this perspective, Christian education is not only a transfer of knowledge, but also a process of spiritual transformation that helps students to live a life in accordance with their faith.

In addition, Christian education must also be relevant to the development of the times without losing its theological essence. Purwoto, Budiyan, and Arifianto (2020) emphasize that the theological foundation in the New Testament is an important basis for today's Christian education system (Purwoto et al., 2020). Christian education must consider global challenges, such as secularization and pluralism, that affect the understanding of the faith of the younger generation. By understanding the principles of theology in education, Christian institutions can develop curriculum and learning methods that are not only informative but also inspiring for students to develop their faith and insight in an increasingly complex society.

Christian education based on theology is not just an academic endeavor, but a profound process in forming a correct understanding of God, humans, and the world based on a biblical perspective (Gostin, 2023). In this process, faith is not only taught but also experienced in real life, thus becoming the foundation for individuals to face various challenges in life (Simamora & Tarigan, 2024). Christian education must reflect solid spiritual values in order to produce individuals who are not only knowledgeable but also have high integrity and moral commitment (Lase & Purba, 2020). Thus, the Christian education system must continue to update its methods and curriculum to remain relevant without losing its theological essence (Darmawan et al., 2023).

The urgency of this research lies in the increasing challenges faced by Christians in the digital age and cultural pluralism. Without a deep understanding of Christian educational theology, Christians can lose their spiritual orientation in living their daily lives (Naibaho & Lumbantoruan, 2024). By making Christian educational theology the foundation of life, individuals can have a stronger resilience of faith in the face of various shifts in values in society (Ndruru et al., 2024).

Several previous studies have discussed the relevance of Christian education in building character and faith resilience, such as research conducted by Waruwu and Agresia (2024), which emphasizes the importance of Bible-based education in shaping individual morality (Waruwu & Agresia, 2024). Other research by Harefa and Worihana (2024) highlights how Christian education can be a tool to strengthen the integration of faith in daily life (Harefa et al., 2024). However, this research provides a more in-depth perspective by emphasizing that Christian educational theology is not only an instrument of teaching, but also as a key foundation in building solid spiritual resilience in the modern era.

Based on this background, this study aims to analyze how Christian educational theology can be the main foundation in building strong faith in the midst of the challenges of the times. This research also aims to identify the role of biblical values in shaping a life in harmony with the teachings of Christ and evaluate how the approach to Christian education can be applied effectively in the lives of the faithful. Thus, this research is expected to make a significant contribution to the development of Christian education that is more effective in forming a strong Christian character and faith.

## METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with a library research method to analyze the role of Christian education theology as a foundation in building strong faith in facing the challenges of the times with solid biblical values. Literature study is a research method that utilizes various written sources to obtain data and information relevant to the topic under study (Zed, 2018). This method was chosen because it allows researchers to identify, explore, and analyze various theological views and implications of Christian education in the formation of individual character and faith (Creswell & Clark, 2017).

The data sources in this study come from primary and secondary literature which includes Christian education theology books, academic journals, scientific articles, ecclesiastical documents, and previous research results related to Christian education and its relevance in building spiritual resilience (Moelong, 2018). The literature used was selected based on criteria of validity and relevance to the research topic, with a span of the last five years to ensure that the data used remained actual and contextual. In addition, some classic references that have had a significant influence on the development of Christian educational theology are also included as supporting data sources.

The data collection technique was carried out through documentation studies, in which researchers systematically reviewed various related literature to obtain comprehensive insights into the role of Christian educational theology in shaping the character and resilience of one's faith (Bowen, 2009). The study of documentation allows researchers to understand the theological concepts that have been put forward by experts, as well as evaluate how the principles of Christian education can be applied in the context of daily life.

The data analysis method used in this study is content analysis which aims to identify the patterns, meanings, and relevance of the various literature studied (Sugiyono, 2016). This analysis is carried out by reading, grouping, and interpreting the content of various sources studied to find conclusions that can answer the formulation of the problem in this study. In addition, this study also applies hermeneutic analysis, which is an interpretation method used to understand the meaning of theological texts in relation to Christian education (Gadamer et al., 2004). By using this approach, this research is expected to make a significant contribution to the development of Christian education as a foundation for the formation of a strong faith in the face of the challenges of the times.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The following are 10 selected articles from several articles found in this study. These articles were selected based on their relevance to the theme of the Theological Foundation of Christian Education and Biblical Values and their contribution to explaining how Christian educational theology can be a solid foundation for building a solid faith in the face of the challenges of the times. These articles cover a wide range of perspectives, from the role of theological education in the family, the formation of biblical values in Christian education, to the relevance of Christian education in the modern era.

**Table 1.** Bibliography Data

No	Author	Title	Findings
1	Gulo & Gulo	Education and Example: Implementation of Christian Education in Family in Era Society 5.0	Christian education in the family plays a role in shaping faith and character based on Titus 2:6-7.

2	Rodríguez	A Christian Lifestyle: Biblical Foundation and Praxis	Christian education should be based on an in-depth study of the Bible in order to shape a Christian lifestyle.
3	Kolibu, Peter, & Naibaho	Strengthening the Values of Christian Education in Facing the New Normal Era	Christian educational values play an important role in dealing with social and cultural changes.
4	Backfish	Biblical Wisdom as a Model for Christian Liberal Arts Education	Christian education should teach biblical wisdom as a model of learning in higher education institutions.
5	Rusu	The Role of The Bible and Theological Education in Preventing and Stopping Individualism and Extremism	Christian theological education can be a solution in dealing with individualism and extremism through the formation of biblical values.
6	Knight	Redemptive Education: Part I-Philosophical Foundation	Christian education should focus on redemptive education as its philosophical foundation.
7	Elton-Chalcraft & Cammack	Christian Values in Education: Teachers in India Narrate the Impact of Their Faith and Values on Practice	Christian values in education have a significant impact on teaching practice.
8	Richardson	Faith and Learning in Higher Education: Merging the Bible with Discipline-Specific Content	Faith-based colleges should integrate biblical values in the academic curriculum.
9	Shaw	Transforming Theological Education: A Practical Handbook for Integrated Learning	Theological education must be oriented towards integrated and transformative learning.
10	Arthur	A Christian Education in the Virtues: Character Formation and Human Flourishing	Christian education aims to shape character and moral development through Christian teachings.

Christian education based on theology plays a very important role in building a strong faith and shaping character based on biblical values. Various studies have shown that Christian education not only provides academic understanding, but also serves as a tool of profound spiritual transformation for individuals, especially in the face of the challenges of the times. From the results of the literature selection that has been carried out, there are various interesting findings on how Christian education can be the basis for the formation of individual faith and morality in the context of an increasingly complex modern society.

Research conducted by Gulo and Gulo (2023) in *Education and Example: Implementation of Christian Education in Family in Era Society 5.0* reveals that Christian education in the family is the main factor in shaping a person's faith and character from an early age. Referring to Titus 2:6-7, they explain that parents have the primary responsibility in providing religious education to their children. They emphasized that Bible-based parenting can form personalities that are in harmony with Christian values, so that children can grow up with strong moral principles and high spiritual endurance in the face of the challenges of modern life (Gulo & Gulo, 2023).

Meanwhile, Rodríguez (2020) in his article *A Christian Lifestyle: Biblical Foundation and Praxis* highlights that Christian education should always be rooted in an in-depth study of the Bible. He argued that in shaping the Christian lifestyle, it is crucial for educational institutions and churches to ensure that their teaching is in accordance with biblical doctrine. Christian education is not only

an academic approach, but it also becomes an integral part of one's daily life in living out their faith in a tangible and practical way. The article also emphasizes how God's word-based teaching can guide moral and ethical decision-making in a challenging society (Rodríguez, 2020).

Kolibu, Peter, and Naibaho (2021) in their research entitled *Strengthening the Values of Christian Education in Facing the New Normal Era* discuss how Christian education values can be the answer in facing social and cultural changes due to the digital era and the global pandemic. They point out that Christian education should not only be focused on academic teaching, but should also be a tool in building an individual's spiritual and emotional resilience in uncertain situations. They underlined that the integration of theological education with the context of modern life is essential for Christians to maintain their faith amid the onslaught of secularization and moral relativism (Kolibu et al., 2021).

Another study by Backfish (2019) in *Biblical Wisdom as a Model for Christian Liberal Arts Education* offers the perspective that Biblical wisdom should be the main model in Christian liberal education. He explained that Christian education not only aims to provide information, but also to form wisdom that can guide individuals in daily life. In his article, he argues that Christian educational institutions should emphasize the character formation aspect and biblical values as part of their curriculum. Thus, students not only gain academic understanding but also have a strong moral foundation to live their lives in the midst of the challenges of the times (Backfish, 2019).

Furthermore, Rusu (2024) in *The Role of The Bible and Theological Education in Preventing and Stopping Individualism and Extremism* raises the issue that Christian theological education can be a solution in overcoming individualism and extremism that develops in modern society. He emphasized that by understanding and internalizing the teachings of the Bible, individuals can develop a more inclusive and loving attitude toward others. The research also shows how Christian education can play a role in building broader social awareness and helping individuals to become agents of change in their communities (Rusu, 2024).

Knight (2023) in *Redemptive Education: Part I-Philosophical Foundation* focuses on the concept of redemptive education in the Christian education system. He emphasized that Christian education must have a clear orientation towards the restoration of the relationship between man and God. Through this theological approach, education is not only a means to transfer knowledge but also to help individuals understand and live God's grace in their lives. Thus, Christian education has a broader role compared to the secular education system which only focuses on cognitive aspects (Knight, 2023).

In the context of teaching practice, Elton-Chalcraft and Cammack (2020) in *Christian Values in Education: Teachers in India Narrate the Impact of Their Faith and Values on Practice* show how Christian values applied by educators have a significant impact on the teaching and learning process. They found that teachers who had strong Christian beliefs tended to be more oriented towards moral and ethical values in educating their students. This shows that Christian education not only affects individuals personally but also has a wider social impact through the role of educators in various institutions (Elton-Chalcraft & Cammack, 2020).

Richardson (2019) in his article *Faith and Learning in Higher Education: Merging the Bible with Discipline-Specific Content* discusses the importance of integration between faith and academia in the higher education environment. He emphasized that Christian institutions need to develop an educational approach that links academic studies with biblical values so that students can see the relevance of their faith in various disciplines. In this way, Christian education can produce graduates who are not only competent in their academic field but also have a perspective based on a solid Christian faith (Richardson, 2019).



In addition, Shaw (2022) in his book *Transforming Theological Education: A Practical Handbook for Integrated Learning* highlights how theological education must be transformative and integrated with real life. He argued that Christian education should not only teach theological concepts theoretically but also involve aspects of spiritual experience and practice that can be applied in daily life. This book emphasizes that effective Christian education is one that is able to shape the mindset and actions of individuals so that they can become witnesses of Christ in society (Shaw & MacDonald, 2017).

Finally, Arthur (2021) in *A Christian Education in the Virtues: Character Formation and Human Flourishing* focuses on how Christian education can play a role in shaping an individual's character and moral virtues. He explained that Christian education should pay great attention to the development of virtues such as patience, honesty, and compassion. He also emphasized that virtue-oriented education will help individuals to achieve better spiritual and social well-being (Arthur, 2021).

From the various studies that have been studied, it can be concluded that Christian education has a very important role in building strong faith and solid moral character based on biblical values. Christian education not only aims to provide academic understanding but also acts as a means of profound spiritual transformation. With the right approach, Christian education can be an effective tool in shaping individuals who are ready to face the challenges of the times with a firm foundation of faith and strong moral values.

## **Discossion**

### **Christian Educational Theology as the Main Foundation of a Strong Faith**

In facing the challenges of an increasingly complex era, Christian education has a crucial role in building strong faith for believers. This education not only aims to provide theological knowledge, but also to form a character that is in harmony with the teachings of Christ. One of the main principles in Christian education is Christocentrism, in which Jesus Christ is at the center of all aspects of learning. By making Christ the ultimate foundation, believers can gain a deeper understanding of their faith and how to apply it in their daily lives.

This approach can be seen in various Christian educational institutions that apply Christ-based teaching methods. One example is Geojassi Christian School, which emphasizes the importance of students' spiritual development through a holistic approach to education. The curriculum of this school not only emphasizes the academic aspect but also builds the character of students based on biblical values. In this way, students are not only equipped with academic skills, but also with a firm faith to face the challenges of the times (Chung, 2025).

In addition to making Christ the center of education, Christian education also upholds the authority of the Bible as the primary source of truth. The Bible is not just a teaching material, but it is the foundation in shaping the way of thinking and acting for believers. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, it is written that all God-inspired writings are useful for teaching, declaring errors, correcting behavior, and educating in truth. This is in line with the findings of research conducted by Arios & Tambunan (2024), which shows that Bible-based Christian religious education contributes greatly to the growth of children's faith (Arios & Tambunan, 2024). By applying a curriculum that is based on biblical principles, children who receive this education have a deeper understanding of faith and are better prepared to face the challenges of modern times.

More than just providing theological understanding, Christian education also plays a role in shaping character and discipleship. Discipleship is an important part of Christian education because it instills the values of faith not only in the form of theory, but also in real practice in everyday life. Through mentoring and spiritual guidance programs, students are helped to develop character in

accordance with the teachings of Christ. A study conducted by Samongilailai (2024) found that the teachings of Christian theology in education have a significant impact on building the character of Christian adolescents in the contemporary era (Samongilailai, 2024). Through an intensive, Bible-based discipleship program, adolescents involved in Christian education experience real spiritual growth and have greater resilience in the face of the negative influences of the world.

From these findings, it is clear that Christian education that has a strong theological foundation plays an important role in building a solid faith for the faithful. By making Christ the center of education, placing the Bible as the main source of truth, and integrating character education through discipleship, Christians can be well prepared to face the challenges of the times. Christian education is not only about understanding the doctrine, but also about how it is manifested in daily life, so that each individual can live according to true Christian values.

### **The Role of Biblical Values in Shaping a Life in Harmony with the Teachings of Christ**

In the Christian life, Biblical values have an important role in shaping the character, mindset, and actions of the faithful. One of the main values emphasized in Christian education is love as the basis of life. The teaching of love in the Bible, as written in Matthew 22:37-39, teaches that loving God and others is at the heart of the Christian life.

A study conducted by F.J. Ahalapada and M. Bambang (2024) shows that Christian religious education based on the value of love has a significant impact on the formation of children's character. This study examines how parents in the Immanuel Kids Community Semarang apply the teachings of love to their children. The results show that children who are educated with the principle of love in daily life tend to have a more empathetic attitude, care for others, and show compassionate behavior in their social interactions (Ahalapada & Bambang, 2024).

In addition to love, faith and perseverance are also values that are highly emphasized in Christian education. In a world full of uncertainty, perseverance in faith is key in facing life's challenges. Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as the basis of all that is expected and the proof of all that is unseen. Faith-oriented Christian education helps individuals to remain steadfast in their beliefs, even in the midst of adversity.

A study conducted by Lahagu and Widjaja (2024) revealed that the strategy of internalizing Christian values in the formation of Christian adolescent character and spirituality is very effective when the teachings of the Bible are applied in daily life. The study examined church youth communities in several regions of Indonesia and found that those who attended regular Bible study and received spiritual guidance showed stronger spiritual endurance compared to those who were not actively involved in Christian education (Lahagu & Widjaja, 2024).

Not only that, but living in truth and integrity is also the main foundation in the Christian life. Psalm 119:105 states that God's word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Therefore, Christian education must instill the principle of living in truth so that the faithful are not easily tempted by worldly values that are contrary to the teachings of Christ.

Research conducted by Tobe, Tafuli, and Topayung (2024) highlights the role of Christian religious education in shaping character in the context of multiculturalism. This study shows that by applying biblical values in the school and family environment, individuals can develop into individuals with high integrity and are able to become agents of positive change in a diverse society (Tobe et al., 2024).

From these various studies, it can be concluded that biblical values not only function as moral principles, but also as a foundation in building a life that is in harmony with the teachings of Christ. By teaching love, faith, perseverance, and living in truth and integrity, Christian education can form individuals who have strong character, firm faith, and are ready to face the challenges of the times.

### **Evaluation of Christian Education Approaches in the Life of the Faithful**

In the application of Christian education in real life, a holistic approach is the main key in shaping the character and faith of believers. This approach not only emphasizes the academic aspect, but also involves a deep spiritual experience. One real-world example of this approach can be found at the Faith Academy in Manila, Philippines. The school develops an educational system that integrates biblical values with academic learning and social service. According to research conducted by Dumlao and Figuerres (2024), this approach has proven to be effective in helping students experience strong faith growth (Dumlao & Figuerres, 2024). Students not only learn about Christian doctrine, but also apply those teachings in daily life through service and community service activities.

The integration of Christian values in formal and informal education has also been well implemented in some Christian communities. For example, the Indonesian Protestant Christian Church (GKPI) in Medan runs a community-based education program that involves Sunday school, faith guidance for teenagers, and spiritual guidance classes for parents. A study conducted by Ortega-Sánchez and Sanz de la Cal (2025) found that this approach is able to build stronger faith in Christian families. With the active involvement of parents, it is easier for children to understand and apply Christian values in their daily lives. The results of the study show that communities that apply Christian education on an ongoing basis have a better level of understanding of the Bible and are better able to face the challenges of the times (Ortega-Sánchez et al., 2025).

In the digital era, the use of technology in Christian education is also an indispensable strategic step. One successful example of the use of digital media is the BibleProject platform, which uses animations and interactive videos to teach Bible principles to children and youth. According to research conducted by McLean (2024), this digital-based learning method is very effective in increasing the involvement of the younger generation in Christian education. With a visually engaging and narrative-based approach, children find it easier to understand the Bible's messages and apply them in their daily lives (Lawson McLean et al., 2024).

From these various concrete examples, it can be concluded that a holistic, community-based, and modern technology approach to Christian education is able to have a significant impact in shaping the faith and character of believers. By applying this method, Christians are better prepared to face the challenges of the times with strong faith and solid biblical values.

### **CONCLUSION**

Christian education based on theology has a crucial role in building a strong faith in the midst of the challenges of the times. Based on the results of this study, it can be concluded that Christian educational theology is not just an academic instrument, but is the main foundation in shaping the character, mindset, and spiritual resilience of believers. A Christian education based on Biblical values allows individuals to not only understand the teachings of Christ intellectually but also apply them in their daily lives. By making Christ the center of education and the Bible as the main guideline, Christians can build a life that is in harmony with God's word and have strong spiritual resilience in the face of secularization and moral relativism.

From a practical perspective, this study recommends that Christian educational institutions should develop a curriculum that emphasizes not only cognitive aspects but also spiritual and character aspects. Christian schools and universities need to integrate discipleship and community-based learning to instill biblical values more deeply in students. In addition, the church and family as informal educational institutions must also be actively involved in providing Christian education from an early age to form a firm faith. The use of digital technology in Christian education must also



continue to be developed so that spiritual learning is more accessible to the younger generation living in the digital era.

For further research, it is recommended that a more in-depth exploration be carried out on the impact of Christian education on social behavior and individual professionalism in the world of work. In addition, it is also necessary to conduct research on the effectiveness of digital-based learning methods in Christian education to understand how technology can be used optimally in building the faith of future generations. With more extensive and in-depth research, Christian education can continue to evolve and remain relevant as a key tool in building strong faith and solid Christian character.

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