

The True Essence of Christian Education

*"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one
already laid, which is Jesus Christ."
1 Corinthians 3:11*

*"The end of learning is to repair the ruins of our first parents by
regaining to know God aright, and out of that knowledge to love
Him, to imitate Him, to be like Him."
John Milton*

The True Essence of Christian Education

- Lies in the person and work of Jesus Christ
- There is no other ground of confidence for our students
- As teachers, you build upon the foundation of truth laid in the Scriptures. Be careful not to mix the wisdom of men (wood, hay, and straw) with the wisdom for God (gold, silver, costly stones). Nothing but God's truth can be safely used in the development of Christian character.

Maintaining the Antithesis

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers, he will crush your head and you will strike his heel."

Genesis 3:15

The World

Always redefining
God's order.

The world exists
and can be understood
independent of God.
"Did God really say?"

KING OF KINGS

&

LORD OF LORDS

Autonomous Reasoning

Plurality of Authoritative Voices

Line of Distinction
Line of Distinction

God's People

In Christ

Set apart by God
to do His will.

Governed by His law.

KING OF KINGS

&

LORD OF LORDS

Jesus Christ

God's people are not to compromise to the other side or act AS IF there is NO LINE.
Non-Christian education pretends that there is NO LINE. Christian education
teaches that this spiritual warfare is life's task.

KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS - Autonomous Reasoning
Trying to arrive at truth without reference to the
authoritative Word of God.

Our society preaches a thundering sermon every day:
God is not relevant to most of life including academic pursuits

History Biology Philosophy Civil Law
Education Government Geography
Sociology Mathematics Literature Psychology
Language Skills Economics The Arts

The sky is blue, a ball falls to the ground when you drop it,
a fish dies out of water, babies grow to become adults, $2+2=4$,
and the US Constitution was written whether Jesus Christ is Lord or not.

Jesus Christ, His
Church, and
the Word of God -
Restricted to Personal
Opinion and Devotions

God's people choose
peace through
separation
(isolation, no salt)
or peace through
compromise (no line)

Jesus Christ, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

"For by Him all things were created; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things and in Him all things hold together." Colossians 1:16-17

"In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:3

"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." II Corinthians 10:5

History Biology Philosophy Civil Law
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We are to think God's thoughts after Him in every discipline and area of life.
There is not just right and wrong somewhere, but everywhere.

The Church

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

Our prayer and hope for all Providence Academy students is that they:

- *have true knowledge and understanding*
- *wisely defend their conclusions from a Christ-centered worldview*
- *weigh their thoughts and deeds in the light of God's Word*

By God's grace they leave Providence Academy with an eagerness to establish Christian culture throughout all spheres of life and are equipped with the knowledge, understanding, and wisdom to do so.

“The Christian cannot be satisfied so long as any human activity is either opposed to Christianity or out of connection with Christianity. Christianity must pervade not merely all nations, but also all of human thought. The Christian, therefore, cannot be indifferent to any branch of earnest human endeavor. It must all be brought into some relation to the gospel. It must be studied either in order to be demonstrated as false, or else in order to be made useful in advancing the Kingdom of God.”

J. Gresham Machen.

“There is not one square inch of the entire creation about which Jesus Christ does not cry out, This is Mine! This Belongs to Me!”

Abraham Kuyper

Closing Thoughts:

- Christian Education should be positive. It is not just teaching what is wrong with the world's education. . The Christian teacher restores the content of any curriculum to its proper position before God.
- Biblical integration is not primarily an issue about which textbooks to purchase. It is an issue about which teachers to hire. The mature Christian teacher can profess Jesus Christ as Lord of any textbook or literature.
- Teachers largely determine the look and feel of Christian elementary schools, but the students more deeply influence the look and feel of Christian middle and high schools.
- What is the "look and feel" of Providence Academy middle and high schools?
 - Is there evidence that the Spirit is working in the hearts and lives of the students?
 - Do we embrace folly or confront it with timely, loving, and firm discipline?
 - Are the students being taught to obey or just respect the Bible?
 - Do we sometimes seek to protect or rescue students rather than confront their sin and call them to repentance?
- The Bible is authoritative in all matters that it addresses. The Christian school teacher teaches the authority of the Bible by obedience to the claims of Christ. If the Word of God is merely present in the school but not authoritatively applied in all areas of school life, the students will learn that Scripture is meant to be respected but not obeyed.