

# A Christian Philosophy of Education

## I. Foundations

A. I am not after the traditions of men or the principles of this world, but after Christ.  
*Colossians 2:8 (KJV) Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*

B. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.  
*Psalms 111:10 (KJV) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.*

C. Knowledge, understanding, and wisdom come from the Lord.  
*Proverbs 2:6 (KJV) For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

D. Jesus is Truth.  
*John 14:6 (KJV) Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

E. Jesus Christ is the corner stone.  
*Ephesians 2:20 (KJV) And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;*

*1 Corinthians 3:11 (KJV) For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

F. Every thought needs to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.  
*2 Corinthians 10:5 (KJV) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

## II. Purposes of Education

To instruct and train the student:

A. To glorify God.

*1 Corinthians 10:31 (KJV) Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

B. To become a disciple of Christ.

*Matthew 28:19 (KJV) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

C. To correctly handle and know the Word of God.

*2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV) Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

D. To fear God.

*Ecclesiastes 12:13 (KJV) Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*

E. To keep God's commandments.

*Ecclesiastes 12:13 (KJV) Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*

F. To be equipped for their future station and ministry.

*Ephesians 4:12-13 (KJV) <sup>12</sup> For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: <sup>13</sup> Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV) <sup>16</sup> All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: <sup>17</sup> That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*

G. To be transformed.

*Romans 12:2 (KJV) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

H. To have dominion over the Earth.

*Genesis 1:28 (KJV) And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

I. To desire and seek after wisdom and understanding.

*Proverbs 3:13-15 (KJV) <sup>13</sup> Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. <sup>14</sup> For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. <sup>15</sup> She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.*

### **III. Nature of Education**

The essential qualities of Christian education:

A. Happens through conversation.

*Deuteronomy 6:7 (KJV) And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

B. Happens all throughout the day. Deuteronomy 6:7

C. Takes place everywhere. Deuteronomy 6:7;

*Acts 5:42 (KJV) And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*

*Matthew 28:19 (KJV) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

D. God's Word is at the center.

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV) <sup>16</sup> All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: <sup>17</sup> That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

E. Involves the whole person: heart, soul, mind.

*Luke 2:40 (KJV) And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.*

*Matthew 22:37 (KJV) Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

#### **IV. Objectives in Education**

The things needed to accomplish the purposes:

A. Research: searching for the source and purpose from God's Word.

*John 5:39 (KJV) Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

B. Reason: reasoning from the Bible to deduce biblical principles and truths.

*Acts 17:2 (KJV) And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,*

C. Relate: applying biblical truth.

*Luke 24:27 (KJV) And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*

D. Record: making a record of study and application.

*Exodus 17:14 (KJV) And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.*

*Psalms 102:18 (KJV) This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the LORD.*

#### **V. Role of Parents**

A. Children should be taught the ways of the Lord.

*Isaiah 54:13 (KJV) And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.*

*Psalms 78:4 (KJV) We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.*

B. Teach your children diligently.

*Deuteronomy 6:7 (KJV) And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

C. Teach your children and grandchildren.

*Deuteronomy 4:9 (KJV) Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;*

D. Bring up children in the training and instruction of the Lord.

*Ephesians 6:4 (KJV) And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

## **VI. Role of Student**

A. Hear counsel and receive instruction to attain wisdom.

*Proverbs 19:20-21 (KJV) <sup>20</sup> Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end. <sup>21</sup> There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.*

B. Honor parents and hear their instruction.

*Proverbs 1:8 (KJV) My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:*

*Exodus 20:12 (KJV) Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

C. Study God's Word.

*2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV) Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

D. Fear God and keep his commandments.

*Ecclesiastes 12:13 (KJV) Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*

*Deuteronomy 4:5-6 (KJV) <sup>5</sup> Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. <sup>6</sup> Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.*

E. Seek first the kingdom of God.

*Matthew 6:33 (KJV) But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

F. Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind.

*Deuteronomy 6:5 (KJV) And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*

G. Grow in grace and knowledge.

*2 Peter 3:18 (KJV) But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

H. Abide in Christ.

*John 15:5 (KJV) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

## **VII. Methodology**

Teaching methods modeled by Christ in the New Testament:

Scripture references given as an example of each method.

A. Use of object lessons. Joshua 4:20-5:1

B. Straightforward, clear teaching. Luke 6:20-49

C. Use of questions and discussion. Mark 12:35-37

D. Use of proverbs and parables: a comparison that allows the student to move from the known to the unknown. Matthew 13:24-42

E. Be an example, a model.

## **VIII. Curriculum**

From the above stated purposes we gather that we need to study:

A. God's Word

In order to correctly handle and know the Word of God and in order to become a disciple of Christ a student must study God's Word.

*Joshua 1:8 (KJV) This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

A study of God's word would also include the following things:

God has declared his thoughts to us through Scripture and he desires us to read and understand.

*Amos 4:13 (KJV) For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name.*

*2 Timothy 3:16 (KJV) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

*Nehemiah 8:8 (KJV) So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.*

God commanded some to record history, prophesies, laws, and standards.

*Isaiah 30:8 (KJV) Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:*

*Deuteronomy 27:3 (KJV) And thou shalt write upon them all the words of this law, when thou art passed over, that thou mayest go in unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, a land that floweth with milk and honey; as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee.*

*Habakkuk 2:2 (KJV) And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.*

*Romans 15:4 (KJV) For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*

We are to speak the truth and edify others with our words.

*Ephesians 4:25, 29 (KJV) <sup>25</sup> Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. <sup>29</sup> Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

## B. God's World

In order for a student to be equipped for their future station and ministry and in order to have dominion over the earth a student must study God's World.

Studying God's world should include the following: (not an exhaustive list)

History is to be recorded and shared with future generations.

*Exodus 17:14 (KJV) And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.*

*Psalms 78:4 (KJV) We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.*

In order to take care of God's creation we need to learn about the earth. (geography)

*Genesis 2:15 (KJV) And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.*

*Psalms 8:6 (KJV) Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:*

A student should study Science, the details of creation, in order to learn and know God.

*Job 12:7-8 (KJV) <sup>7</sup> But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: <sup>8</sup> Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee.*

*Romans 1:20 (KJV) For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

Through the study of math, we learn about the precise, unchanging God we serve.

*Psalms 19:1 (KJV) The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*

*Genesis 7-8* God gave Noah the measurements and details for the building of the ark.

*Exodus 25-27* God gave the specifics for the tabernacle.