

WHY

SHOULD A
CURRICULUM
BE CHRISTIAN?



Why Should A Curriculum Be Christian?

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"Jesus said I am the Way the Truth and the Life, no man cometh to the Father but by me."
John 14:6

"Christ is before all things, and in Him all things consist."
Colossians 1:17

"In Christ are hidden all the treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge."
Colossians 2:3

"Beware lest any man cheat you through philosophy and vain deceit."
Colossians 2:8



Introduction

A believer accepts that God has spoken through His Son, the living manifestation of God and that the Bible is the historical record of God's dealings with mankind. If there is no Bible, then there is no revealed truth, then we have an unknown God. It is written and thus it is legal evidence. It is confirmed because Jesus was God manifest in the flesh. His incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection were predicted in the Old Testament Scriptures. Similarly, many Scriptures point to his future return to rule the world in righteousness.

Psalm 119:130 says "The entrance of thy Word giveth light." True

education needs revelation. All other religious books differ in composition, content and the time span of their multiple human authors. The following six questions will be addressed:

- What do we mean by Curriculum?
- Why should there be an Integration of Truth and Learning?
- Is it possible to have Neutral Education?
- Is there a Greek Philosophy Crisis in Christianity?
- Why does the Jewish Model work?



Curriculum

This is a Latin Word which means a racecourse, a track, a chariot. The root word is Currere meaning to run. The function of education is to school persons in the ultimate values of a culture. This includes knowledge, skills and character development. The West today is jettisoning its Christian heritage in education for humanism. Even that Christian heritage is not fighting back the tide of secularism as it has already compromised the Bible and introduced dubious traditions. Not accepting the record of the fall of man, education has had a focus on freedom instead of salvation from the consequences of sin.

The Curriculum is not just the text books, it is a track that includes all the information delivered, the environment, the subject arrangements and the methodology and timetables. Modern curriculum originates in Greek humanism. Through the medium of the curriculum there should be a focus on character development, and equipping to live. The result of an

appropriate education is to achieve the learner's potential and to provide a basis for proper relationships and his ability to think about the purpose of life.

The atheist makes false dichotomy between secular and sacred things. If the Christian religion is true it affects all spheres of life and in that sense, cannot be privatised. Once, science and scientists confirmed and brought glory to God. Now science instead of displaying God displaces God. This is especially clear in the realm of origins of the universe. The normal scientific method cannot apply to the invisible and transcendent, but deceptively science presents as proven things that are unprovable.

The national curriculum often attempts to mediate in a cross-cultural way and imposes its own values and ethics. It often conflicts with the authority of parents, who are the God given natural educators. Thus, politicised curriculum seeks to nationalise the child. It is clear to me that the Bible is foundation of a properly integrated curriculum.

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Integration

An experiment in Northern Ireland is the integrated school, an attempt to bring different Christian factions together. Now the issue we are looking at is much deeper as there are so many areas of disintegration that cannot be resolved just by human strategy. It is the conflict between the invisible and transcendent and the visible and material that causes the real problem. A false solution is to take religion and faith out of the process and make this area secular. This devalues the creation which according to the Bible illustrates and reflects God's invisible attributes. Romans 1:20 indicates this. The Bible states that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom and the beginning of knowledge and wisdom. See Proverbs 9:10. Science is based on human observation and analysis and implies an inherent scepticism of the eternal realm. The secularist is indoctrinated with doubt, and the Christian is motivated by faith. *"Faith is the evidence of things not seen, by faith we understand the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that the things that are seen were not made by the things that are visible."*

Neutrality

Education is not neutral, it should be under the Lordship of the Redeemer. 1 Corinthians 10:5 says every area

of our lives should be under the Lordship of the Jesus Christ. The state system is secular and God is not acknowledged. This will leave room for concepts of sexual freedom, gender issues, and relativism to be promoted more widely. With unproven theories of evolution taught as fact, and the factual defence of creation being rejected and refused, it is clear nothing is neutral. It is not just that wrong things are taught, the attitudes and values of both teachers and peers are caught. The values of society are taught in the educational system where God is no longer honoured. Education is, in itself, a religious activity and imparts a belief system. God says, "Choose you this day whom you will serve."



Philosophy

Surely a word that means 'Love of Wisdom' cannot be harmful, yet the Bible says in Colossians 2:8 *"Beware lest any man spoil you by philosophy and vain deceit according to the tradition of men"* There is a wisdom which comes from God, and a earthly wisdom. The wisdom from below can puff up a person with pride. Paul the apostle took the gospel to three centres of Greek Learning, they were Ephesus, Corinth and Athens. In each instance, there was reference to the ignorance of this highly academic culture. Acts 17:23,30 and 1 Corinthians 1:20-23 speak of the Corinthian culture where he preached for eighteen months. He invested over two years in Ephesus preaching the gospel.

Here Diana was their Deity and this was big business. The message of Paul was contrary to the culture and in effect Paul was opposing their educational concepts. Today's climate in the West parallels the carnal and sexual behaviour of those days. The truth of the Resurrection also introduces a vital educational component. The influence of Socrates, Plato and his disciple Aristotle has been profound in corrupting the original simple gospel message and church history shows the damage their ideas did to the institutional church. The reformation with its focus on the Bible and a personal relationship with God brought things back to New Testament teaching. But Thomas Aquinas and the Scholasticism movement took many back to Greek ideas. That's why the Christian home-education movement seeks to get back to the Word of God for content. The faith that counters Greek doubt is generated by hearing the word of God. Finally, the Lord himself indicated that we must receive the kingdom of God as a little child. The heart, not the head is the secret. A child has to begin with ABCs and in the spiritual realm the unseen sphere we have to come to Christ, our Alpha and Omega. He is our ABC to begin our discovery of Truth. We learn not as a philosopher but as a little child. 1 Corinthians 1:21-24 tells us Christ crucified made the way open to heavenly discovery.

The Model

Hebrew education had one goal, preparation for the service of God. To the Jews to seek God was the ultimate wisdom and to follow his precepts the ultimate virtue. Whilst the Hebrew said, "What must I do" the Greek said, "Why must I do it?" For one reverence was the issue for the other comprehension. The Greek focussed on self-awareness the Hebrew on the knowledge of God. The most significant passage for the Jews was the Shema in Deuteronomy 6:4-9. The Lord Jesus called it the Great Commandment Matthew 22:37. Part of the commandment is to hold these words in one's heart and then teach them diligently to one's children. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 included both making disciples and teaching them all things. Surely this must begin with our own children and families. In Jewish education, the top subject was God's Law, it also paid attention to the development of natural gifting and skills. It certainly was disciplined and ordered. The original Hebrew, Abraham was commended by God for his home education. Genesis 18:19. One ponders as to why the Jews have been persecuted through the centuries especially as they seem to have acumen and genius that gives them top awards for artistic, literary and musical works. In Nobel prizes for inventive contributions to humanity they outnumber all other

racers. Could this be because their focus on the family and recognition of God's authority has benefitted their genetic contribution to their children's children. And for believers in the Bible as the Word of God won't benefits accrue if God's principles are taught and character is the focus. Indeed, our curriculum should be Bible based and then the curriculum will ensure a race run well and life that honours God.

- They must fear God.
- They must forsake Sin.
- They must follow Jesus.
- They must discover the Truth themselves.

Greek / Hebrew Distinctions

Wisdom is found within / Wisdom is found without
Know yourself / Know God

Old age is feared / Old age is honoured

History is cyclic / History is a time line with a target

Why must I do it? / What must I do?

Nature is God / God is Creator

Gods in the image of man / Man in the image of God

Man is a rational animal / Man in the image of God

Faith in reason / Faith in revelation

God is nature / God is supernatural



