

Biblical Concept of Education

Written by Calvin Fox

Wednesday, 07 January 2009 12:00 -

The Biblical perspective is that all facts, all particulars, are related to each other as part of a total system created and ordered by God, held together at its center by Christ- *Colossians 1:17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*

The true meaning and purpose of any particular can be understood only when seen in relation to the universal. True knowledge is only possible when it is grounded in God. Unregenerate "man" denies this and is determined to have knowledge autonomously and his knowledge, his interpretation of facts and life itself, will be inimical to God. This is the antithesis begun in Genesis 3 with the "Fall"

Facts may be understood in a limited, functional, practical way- enough for "things to work", but facts are not properly or completely understood apart from the system and its center. More than that, apart from the universal (i.e.- Christ), meaning and purpose assigned to particulars by the unregenerate mind will be in opposition to the meaning and purpose assigned to them by Christ.

Thus civilization has seen Systems that "work" in the short term, but which run counter to what God, the Creator, wills; and which, in the long run, are disastrous for man and creation.

Examples of this are seen in various projects of social engineering and in the applications of science and technology. *Ephesians 1:9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,.. to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. 11 ... according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will*

This unity of all things (particulars) in Christ (the one) is God's plan. Satan and autonomous "Man" resist and oppose God's plan, but they will be crushed – Gen 3:15

Hebrews 2:8 [GOD] put everything under his feet. In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him –but, the promise is that we shall see Christ prevail

1 Corinthians 15:25 he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 28 When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

The true meaning and purpose of all particulars (in each Field) will eventually be fully, rightly understood and related when they are seen in connection with Christ.

Hebrews 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

Phil 2:9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Christian Schools? We must heed this admonition, especially in our Schools and Education--*Colossians 2:1 I want you to know how much I am struggling for you ... and for all who have not met me personally. 2 My purpose is that they may... know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. 6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, 7 rooted and built up in him... 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through [that type of] hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. [Instead, learn philosophy, a world view, which depends on Christ] 9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity*

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lives in bodily form, 10 and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

Schools teach more than data and information, technique and mechanics, functions and skills. Schools teach content, values, purpose and meaning in every subject, but content, values, purpose and meaning that are not grounded in Christ and the Scripture are inimical to God. Conversely, students in such schools are not learning content, values, purpose and meaning in all subjects that are complete and grounded in Christ. There is no neutral ground. Jesus said, Matthew 12:30, He who is not with me is against me. Our mission is to bring every thought- all public knowledge- into captivity to Christ, but we must begin by bringing all our private thoughts and knowledge into that captivity.

2 Corinthians 10:5 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 We must be realistic. Most children are never going to attend Christian Schools. Even those who do rarely receive an education that is truly Biblical. To achieve our educational goals, churches must greatly revise and enlarge their educational programs. Parents must be grounded in the Reformed Faith and learn how to integrate it with what is taught in public schools (whether those are the traditional, pilot or charter schools). Churches must enable and support far, far more parental involvement with the education of their children. This, more than anything else, is at the heart of Biblical Education.