

## **Personal Statement Educational Philosophy**

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Man was the crowning act of the creation of God, made in the image of God, and designed to be a counterpart of God. God gave man individuality, the power to think and to do. He could have avoided the whole episode with sin by simply withholding this power, but it is a necessary component in his make-up so that man can properly reflect the image of His maker. Therefore, at infinite cost to himself, God made man in His own image and he, himself chose to be the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world so that man might have the power to think, to choose, and to act.

The Christian teacher must respect this power and not set himself up as one who lords over the students, but as one who appeals to the intellect, to the will and to the creativity of the students. The prime directive of Christian education is to restore what was lost in Eden. Knowledge of sin has brought a transformation of character that has well nigh effaced the precious image. A new transformation must be worked in each heart through the power of the Holy Spirit to develop within each student the mind of Christ. Apart from the new-birth experience all efforts for improvement are in vain.

The Lord established a model school in the Garden of Eden. In this environment the holy pair learned of God as they tended the garden. Every living thing gave glory to God in its own way, and they studied to find the hidden secrets of each created thing. Jesus also learned from the things of nature, and the hearts of our students will draw to God if they learn by discovery in such an environment as well. Adam and Eve were instructed by God and angels, and our students will grow in love if they are instructed by teachers that love them as well. The life of a Christian teacher is a powerful witness for God. As students behold Jesus uplifted in the life of one who loves them so, they are drawn to give their hearts to him. As he transforms their lives, they minister to the needs of each other as well, and the peace of God reigns in their lives.

As Christ grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man, so students are to develop mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially, through a curriculum that addresses each of these domains in an integrated overlapping fashion.

The Christian teacher teaches as Jesus taught using object lessons from nature, from the subjects under study, the experiences of life as well as the Word of God to weave within ordinary things the golden thread of salvation. In this way lessons of eternal value are brought to remembrance by the things of life. Thus every subject is seen in a relation to the central truth of the love of God as seen through the gift of Jesus and the cross. Students are to see this in music, in art, in vocational training. Jesus is to be all in all.

The school of Christ does not live a cloistered life, but lives the life of Christ: between the mountain and the multitude. Students in such a school not only study the Word themselves, but the share it with others through Bible study, evangelism and colporteur work. As did

Christ, they meet the needs of others through practical helps and emergency relief. They take an interest in the health and well-being of those around them, and thus grow in grace