



What is Christian, Classical Education?

Christian Education

- ◆ Is to know and glorify God by gaining knowledge, understanding and wisdom.
- ◆ Is for Christian life.
- ◆ Enables the child to shoulder the responsibilities and privileges of being God's image bearer.
- ◆ Prepares God's people to become responsible agents for justice, peace, love, delight, and gratitude.
- ◆ Recognizes the Bible as the final authority in matters of life and thought.
- ◆ Seeks to find the balance between isolation and accommodation, instead seeking to live purposefully in a fallen world.

Classical Education

- ◆ Draws deeply on the rich heritage of Western civilization and culture.
- ◆ Teaches that which is durable.
- ◆ Seeks the good and true.
- ◆ Based on language instead of images.
- ◆ Provides tools for learning.

The Tools of Classical Education: The Trivium

- ◆ Trivium means “the three-fold way or road”
- ◆ Three parts: knowledge (grammar), understanding (logic), wisdom (rhetoric)

A Set of Subjects

Subjects are selected for building the basic foundation of an area of study. For example, phonics builds the reading foundation; history is the foundation needed for understanding philosophy, science, art and other subjects; Latin forms the foundation for learning English vocabulary and learning the Romance languages; arithmetic is the foundation for higher level mathematics; classification, observation and experimentation in the natural world provide the basis for science. Over all of these areas, Bible reading and memorization is the foundation for all truth. As the student matures, the subjects build upon the basic foundation.

An Approach to Subjects

Grammar: The facts (dates, events, places, terminology, key people); mastery
Dialectic: The principles/reasons (motivations for events, ideological differences)
Rhetoric: Full application (effective, clear and wise discernment on problems of world/nation);
Ability to express convictions eloquently

An Approach to Students

Certain ages line up more closely than others with the approach to subjects. For example:

Grades K—6	⇒ Grammar stage	⇒ Mastery of knowledge
Grades 7—9	⇒ Logic stage	⇒ Develop reasoning ability
Grades 10—12	⇒ Rhetoric stage	⇒ Flourishing of expression

**“Classical education is about equipping children for the future
with what has been successful in the past.”**

Gregg Strawbridge