Theology of Christian Education

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When I started my journey walking alongside God three years ago I was instinctively drawn to our duty as Christians to teach others about Christ. I was first drawn into the aspect of apologetics and read a lot on the subject even taking an apologetic course in college. Through learning about the truth that God is real and everything that we see before us is His creation it solidified my hope to once day be able to better lead others to Christ by teaching them what is taught to us in the Bible. As we read in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” (Company 2003)

Throughout my studies I have found three attributes of God that will and have shaped my approach to teaching others. The attributes of love, truth, and wisdom have assisted my in my writing of lesson plans/bible studies as well as in my conversations I have had with others. God’s love has taught me to approach all teaching and planning with the love that God expects of all His followers. God has shown His love to us all through His grace and patience He has shown us while guiding us along the narrow path. Using the love that God has demonstrated in my life I can now use that same love to educate and bring alongside others on their journey. God is truth. In today’s culture we are all being told that truth is relative to the individual, but as we all know in our hearts that isn’t true at all. God provides us with absolute truth it is on ourselves to hold each of us accountable to that truth. But how do we know what God’s truth is? That is where Christian education comes into play. I write all my lesson plans and bibles studies with the backing of scripture and God’s truth He teaches us in His word. “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” (Company 2003) This passage from James 1:5 speaks to us about God’s wisdom. When teaching others I draw from the wisdom taught to me from not just God, but from the countless others in the Bible that God has chosen to teach us His word.

With the drawing of wisdom, love, and truth from God we are now equipped with the ability to teach others about Him. While the truth is given to us in the Bible it isn’t always an easy task to teach mankind. Because mankind is fallible, different individually, and created in God’s image we have to be able to teach each other the truth about God and the knowledge contained in His word with conviction and confidence. Because we are all created in God’s image I have found myself ensuring that I teach others through empathy and respect. Through understanding, grace, love, and respect for each individual I feel it will allow me to get through to others in a more effective way. Another thing with mankind is that we are all unlike God; fallible. Because of the fallibility of mankind we all have to ensure that what we teach ourselves and others is coming from God’s Word and not just an opinion. This opens up the last aspect of mankind that I take into account when teaching others about God. Each individual is different in how they approach learning, studying, and reading God’s Word. Because of this I need to learn to teach and write lesson plans with the audience’s learning styles in mind.

Lastly, the Bible itself gives us guidance not only to the importance of educating others, but in the process on how to create disciples. Throughout the Bible we read about how important it is to teach God’s laws, commandments, and truths. Because of the importance to learn what is expected of us from God the process of educating others is in my view one of the most important aspects of followers and Christ can do. Psalm 119:66 says it pretty straightforward, “Teach me good discernment and knowledge, for I believe in Your commandments.”(Company 2003) The second thing that the Bible teaches us on the importance of educating others is given to us in the great commission in Matthew 28:16-20. This passage tells us to go forth and make disicples who make disciples. (Company 2003) The best and in my opinion to only way to equip others to follow this commission is to teach them about God and His Word through bible studies, sunday school, etc. Without the education in God and His Word we are unequipped to teach others.

# Works Cited

Company, Kirkbride Bible. 2003. *Thompson Chain Reference Bible-NASB*.