

The Integration of Faith and Learning

A key focus of a Christian university is the integration of faith with learning and living in its teaching and scholarship. Faith, heart, soul, and intellect must function synergistically to empower students fully. The Christian university derives this focus from the most important principle given to the Church:

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. --Matt. 22:37-38

I would like to summarize my ideal integration of faith and learning using the following statements taken from the book: *WORTH IT - THE 15,000-HOUR DECISION* by Brian S Simmons, published by Purposeful Design Publications in Colorado Springs, CO, pp.28-29. ISBN: 978-1-58331-386-2

Christian schools focus on effective teaching and student learning so that students will be prosperous and successful in life as evaluated by God's measure of success and prosperity. So there's more to Christian schooling than strong academics.

One of the distinctives of Christian education is that students understand that the truth of every subject, the written curriculum, emanates from the absolute truth of God's Words.

It's important for students to know how to complete math problems, conduct science experiments, and write research papers. But it's even more important that they learn to address the deeper life questions that are a continual part of both life and education.

Whether students are immersed in literature or history, or whether they are more focused on issues and challenges in life outside the classroom, young people regularly ask questions such as the following:

- Where did I come from?
- Why am I here?
- What is the purpose of life?
- Is there a God?
- When does life begin?
- Is there life after death?
- What is true justice?
- What responsibility do I have for the welfare of others?
- What is a family?
- What are the ethical limits of technological advances?

Questions like these arise whether young people attend a Christian school or a public school. The difference is found in the kinds of answers students will receive when they discuss these questions in the classroom or in the hallway.

That's perhaps the biggest distinctive of Christian schooling. It's not just about the academic subjects; it's about the perspective they receive along the way.

If you want your children to grow up learning how to naturally connect the dots between God's truth and every other topic or subject that they will encounter through their lives, I encourage you to consider enrolling them in a Christian school.

Although Christian schools certainly aren't perfect, they are focused on the Someone who is. And that Person can make all the difference in the world.