

Philosophy

The Primary Source of Truth

Acknowledging that the Bible is God's inspired, inerrant, infallible, all sufficient and authoritative Word, the philosophy of education at Grace is based on a God-centered view of truth and man as presented in the Bible. "For by Him all things were created . . . And He is before all things and in Him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:16,17) Truth is not based on feelings, circumstances or opinion, but is absolute and objective, and is the summation of what is taught through the Word of God (Ps. 119:60, John 17:17). This foundation

of truth is essential to have a comprehensive, undistorted understanding of the world and all subjects therein. Truth is not a matter of personal preference, majority rule, the most recent opinion poll, or revisionary editing.

The Nature of Man

Man is created in the image of God, with the unique capacity to know and respond to God personally and voluntarily (Genesis 1:26,27). However, because man is a sinner by nature and choice he cannot, in this condition, know or honor God in his life (Romans 3:10,11,23). He can do this only by being born again (John 3:3), through receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and thus be enabled to do God's will, being conformed to His image, which is the ultimate purpose of his life (Eph. 2:1-10; Romans 12:1,2). In light of man's sin nature, discipline for the moment is not necessarily joyful, but if consistently practiced will in time "yield the peaceful fruit of righteousness" (Hebrews 12:11). It is our nature to be inclined toward laziness and the path of least resistance. Children are no different and need the boundaries of instruction, discipline and encouragement to mature into responsible, diligent and secure young people (Ephesians 6:4).

The Responsibility to Educate

The Bible clearly instructs parents, not the Church or State, to "bring children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:6,7; Psalm 78:4; Proverbs 22:6). As parents enlist the school to assist in this training process, we endeavor to become their co-laborers with the goal of guiding and directing the student in gaining knowledge, wisdom and understanding based on a proper and righteous fear of the Lord (Proverbs 1:7). As a school we seek to help train parents in God's wisdom for family life. Our facility is handicapped accessible throughout, as well as including an elevator within the Family Life Center. We currently have two school buses, two transportation vans and one cargo van for field trips, sports events and school activities.

The Goal of Education

"The goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith" (I Timothy 1:5). To produce students who speak with eloquence, have all faith and knowledge or sacrifice to the point of martyrdom would seem to arrive at the ideal. But according to I Corinthians 13:1-3, without love these admirable qualities become nothing more than noisy irritations, of no personal value and profit nothing. Jesus said that the two greatest commandments are: *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:37,39* As a Christian School we are responsible and accountable to God to not only competently communicate the truth, but to do it with Christ's love. Therefore, the standard by which our efforts are measured are the attributes of love as cited and defined in I Corinthians 13:4-8a. As educators we strive to achieve the balance of truth and love in our lives and in our teaching so that our students may "increase in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52). Our ambition to avoid the excesses of compromise and indulgence, as well as harshness and self-righteous arrogance, is with the intent of equipping students that they might not be "deluded by persuasive argument or taken captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ" (Colossians 2:4,8). Our commitment is to thoroughly prepare our students in academics while at the same time grounding

them in the love and wisdom of God according to His Word. We intend to avoid the bane of producing "intelligent fools". May God use His Word and His Spirit to raise up a generation of Godly leaders "who will be vessels for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work" (II Timothy 2:21).

From this philosophy stem certain aims and objectives:

1. Teach the Bible as God's inspired, authoritative Word, and cultivate a love and reliance upon it as our standard for living. *But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. II Peter 1:20,21 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers. Psalm 1:2,3 Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words Lest He reprove you, and you be proved a liar. Proverbs 30:5*

2. Teach the whole counsel of God so that at the end of a student's schooling he has a grasp of the doctrines and interdependence of the Scriptures, not just isolated stories. *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. II Tim. 3:16,17* The purpose of this is to:

a. provide opportunity for every student to accept and confess Jesus Christ as their Savior; *That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. Romans 10:9,10*

b. instruct the student and pattern a thorough understanding and life application of the qualities of love as found in I Corinthians 13; *Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous, love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. I Corinthians 13:4-8a*

c. inspire the student with a vision to serve God and others; *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Matthew 28:19,20 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Philippians 2:3,4*

d. train the student to share his faith through various approaches and methods; *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. Acts 1:8*

e. teach a Biblical world view integrated into all of the academic disciplines; *I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1,2*

f. teach students to discern truth and error; *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Ephesians 5:6*

3. To train students to be leaders in their personal, vocational and spiritual lives. *Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Philippians 2:5-8 Not that we lord it over your faith, but are workers with you for your joy; for in your faith you are standing firm. II Corinthians 1:24 But Jesus called them to Himself, and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served,*

but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Matthew 20:25-28

4. Provide a level of excellence in academic instruction and achievement using the "Hebrew model" of teaching which is based on knowledge with the goal of obedience, not knowledge just for the sake of knowledge. *But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. James 1:22 That your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. I Corinthians 2:5 For in many dreams and in many words there is emptiness. Rather, fear God. Ecclesiastes 5:7*

5. Teach the student to do whatever he does, heartily, as for the Lord, not as men-pleasers. *And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men. Colossians 3:17,23*

6. Teach children to be creative and responsible in the use of God's creation. *Thou dost make him to rule over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet. Psalm 8:6 But one has testified somewhere, saying, "What is man, that Thou rememberest him? Or the son of man, that Thou art concerned about him? Thou hast made him for a little while lower than the angels; Thou hast crowned him with glory and honor, and hast appointed him over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet." Hebrews 2:6-8*

7. Teach civic duty in an effort to influence the community, the nation and the world by encouraging personal responsibility, the exercise of civic virtue and the shaping of individuals of independent character to reflect Christ. *You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:13-16*

8. Teach gender distinctiveness as God's created order. *And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Genesis 1:27*

9. Help the child to develop self-discipline and responsibility from God's perspective, to govern oneself -- learning self-knowledge, self-mastery, and self-control. *All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Hebrews 12:11 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified. I Corinthians 9:24-27 But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. I Timothy 4:7,8 Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress may be evident to all. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things; for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you. I Timothy 4:15,16*

10. Teach Biblical character qualities and provide opportunity for the student to demonstrate these qualities. *But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." I Samuel 16:7 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22,23*

11. Teach the student the respect for and submission to authority from God's perspective and the responsibility to pray for the authorities in his life. *Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil. Wherefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. Romans 13:1-7 Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you. Hebrews 13:17 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. I Timothy 2:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. Ephesians 6:1-3*

12. Teach the student to memorize and meditate on God's Word and the value of this practice. *Thy word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against Thee. Psalm 119:11 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers. Psalm 1:1-3 This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Joshua 1:8*

13. Instruct the student, and model how to study the Word of God for himself. *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth. I Timothy 2:15*

14. Help the student develop a balanced self-image based on the truth revealed in God's Word that he might not think too lowly or too highly of himself, but think so as to have sound judgement. *For thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Thy works, And my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from Thee, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth. Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Thy book they were all written, The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them. Psalm 139:13-16 For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. Romans 12:3*

15. Guide the student into a Biblical attitude toward temporal and material things and his responsibility as a steward of what God has entrusted to him. *But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have pierced themselves with many a pang. But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and*

you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I Timothy 6:6-12 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed. I Timothy 6:6-12;17-19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth where moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Matthew 6:19-24

16. Cultivate an appreciation of the Fine Arts and encourage development in the areas of literature, music and art to glorify God and edify men. *In unison when the trumpeters and the singers were to make themselves heard with one voice to praise and to glorify the Lord and when they lifted up their voice accompanied by trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and when they praised the Lord saying, 'He indeed is good for His loving kindness is everlasting,' then the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud. II Chronicles 5:13 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of the our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father. Ephesians 5:18-20 God created the earth, the heavens, and everything in the earth. Then He declared it all very good. In the Garden He made trees pleasant to the sight, as well as good for food. His purpose was not completely utilitarian. Genesis 1, 2 Overview Then David gave to his son Solomon the plan of the porch of the temple, its buildings, its storehouses, its upper rooms, its inner rooms, and the room for the mercy seat; and the plan of all that he had in mind, for the courts of the house of the Lord, and for all the surrounding rooms, for all the utensils of service in the house of the Lord. 'All this,' said David, 'the Lord made me understand in writing by His hand upon me, all the details of this pattern.' I Chronicles 28:11, 12, 19*

17. Teach the student to reason logically and think in an orderly manner to arrive at a conclusion. *Through presumption comes nothing but strife. But with those who receive counsel is wisdom. Proverbs 13:10 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Lest you also be like him. Answer a fool as his folly deserves, Lest he be wise in his own eyes. Proverbs 26:4,5 Seek the Lord while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, And He will have compassion on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Neither are your ways My ways,' declares the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth, And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it. Isaiah 55: 6-11*

18. Teach the student to develop and maintain his physical body as the temple of the Holy Spirit. *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own. I Corinthians 6:19*

In Conclusion

King Solomon evaluated all of the intellectual, creative, artistic, and amusing interests our lives can pursue in the book of Ecclesiastes. No individual before or after this king has had the breadth of opportunity, wealth of advantage or depth of experience he had. Therefore, his conclusion at the end

of his life is most interesting and instructive. *The words of wise men are like goads, and masters of these collections are like well driven nails; they are given by one Shepherd. But beyond this, my son, be warned: the writing of books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body. The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil. Ecclesiastes 12:11-14* As educators we must "remember our Creator in the days of our youth," (Ecclesiastes 12:1). In this passage, to remember means to act decisively, not unintentionally neglect God as we live out our lives. In order to pass on the things that matter most we dedicate ourselves to these goals.