

# Aurora Christian's Philosophy of Education

**A Christian Philosophy of Education must begin, have as its continual frame of reference, and end with the eternal God. In doing so, it acknowledges that:**

There is only one God (Deut 6:4), who exists eternally in three persons, God the Father (2 Cor 1:3), God the Son (Heb 1:1-8), and God the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30).

The universe and all within, was created for the purpose of the glorification of, and is sustained by, God (Gen 1-2; Ex 20:11; Col 1:16-17; Jn 1:1-3; Rev 4-11).

This eternal God has revealed Himself to man through the creation (Ps 19:1; Rom 1:19-20), and through His inspired, inerrant, infallible, eternal Word, the Bible (Heb 1:1-2; 2 Tim 3:16-17; Ps 119:89; Jn 1:1; 2 Pet 1:20-21).

Man's relationship to God was broken by the sin of Adam and Eve (Gen 3), and therefore, all men since Adam are born with a sinful nature and are under the sentence of death from a Holy God (1 Cor 15:22; Rom 3:23, 5:14, 6:23; Eze 18:4).

Jesus Christ, through the miracle of the incarnation, dwelt among men, and voluntarily offered Himself as our substitute, dying on the cross to appease the wrath of God, and make possible an eternal relationship of man with God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Jn 1:14-17, 3:16; Eph 2:8).

A life of holiness is possible for the believer by means of the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit, who teaches us regarding the things of God and causes us to discern areas of personal sin, which exist as a result of the ongoing conflict of our two natures, sinful and righteous (Jn 14:16-18, 26, 16:7-15; Rom 7:14-25).

Based on the above assertions, it is possible to establish certain definitive statements in regard to the educational process. True Christian Education will recognize that:

God is the ultimate source of all truth (Jn 14:6). Therefore, His Word (revealed truth) holds a position of priority over human reason and enables all of life, in both its temporal and eternal aspects, to be viewed from the perspective of the centrality of God rather than the centrality of man (Ps 1:18-32). Any distinction between "sacred truth" and "secular truth" is, therefore, a false dichotomy.

A differentiation must be made between earthly wisdom (1 Cor 1-2; Jas 3:15) and spiritual wisdom (1 Cor 1:30, 7:10-16; Jas 3:13, 17), while acknowledging that the source of all true wisdom and understanding is God Himself (Pr 1:7, 9:10, 15:33; Col 2:3).

The purpose of Christian education is to convince the student of his need of a personal, saving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, and to nurture, admonish, and encourage the student to live in conformity with the revealed will of God through a life of service, wholly dedicated to and dependent upon God (Rom 12).

The process of Christian education requires the natural integration and consistent application of God's Word into every area (academic, extracurricular, administrative, etc.) of the school program (Eph 4:4-6).

Parents bear the sole responsibility for the education of their children. Christian parents, in particular, should be aware of their duty to raise and educate their children in accordance with God's way and experience the resulting blessing of obedience or consequences of disobedience which will result from their decision regarding the provision of a God-honoring education (Dt 4:10, 6:6-7, 20:17-18; Ps 106:34-37; Jer 10:2; Mt 12:30; 2 Cor 6:17; Eze 44:5; Ezra 7:25; Pr 22:6).

God has ordained marriage, the family (Gen 2:27, 28; 3:18-24), and the Church (Mt 16:13-18; Eph 5:23-32) as the institutions which He desires to use to accomplish His divine will on Earth. Local gatherings of believers called churches, the visible entity of the universal Church, serve their families in the area of education by training and equipping parents to be the primary providers of spiritual instruction for their children. To assist parents in this area there are two types of schools; the Sunday school and the Monday through Friday Christian school. The Christian school also provides an excellent, well-rounded program of Christ-centered academics and extracurricular activities. The goal of the three, parents, church, and Christian school, is to work together to carry out the mandate of Scripture to "Train up a child in the way that he should go. Even when he is old, he shall not depart from it." (Pr 22:6)

The biblical and philosophical goal of Aurora Christian School is to develop students into mature, Christlike individuals who will be able to exhibit a Christlike life. Of necessity, this involves the school's understanding and belief of what qualities or characteristics exemplify a Christlike life. Even though parents may personally believe differently, while enrolled at Aurora Christian School, all students are expected to exhibit the qualities of a Christlike life espoused and taught by the school and to refrain from certain activities or behavior. Thus, Aurora Christian School retains the right to refuse enrollment to or to expel any student who engages in sexual immorality, including practicing homosexual/bisexual, as well as any student who condones, supports, or otherwise promotes such practices (Lev 20:13, Rom 1:27).

## **Aurora Christian's Statement of Faith**

\* We believe in the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God, inerrant in the original writing, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and practice.

\* We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

\* We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.

\* We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is eternal separation from God.

\* We believe that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and, in the case of those who reach moral responsibility, become sinners in thought, word, and deed.

\* We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our own sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood.

\* We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His Ascension into Heaven, and in His present life there for us as High Priest and Advocate.

\* We believe in "that Blessed Hope," the personal, visible, premillennial and imminent return of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

\* We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God.

\* We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost.

