



Charlotte Mason: A Liberal Education for All with Jason Barney

Lecture 14: Education is the Science of Relations

Outline:

Education is the Science of Relations

- Charlotte Mason **did not** mean that education should be a carefully packaged process made up education.
 - Children taught on this principle are in danger of receiving much teaching with little knowledge.
 - The teacher's axiom is, "What a child learns matters less than how he learns it."
 - Charlotte Mason felt that this put the focus too much upon the teacher's work.
- Charlotte Mason meant something deeper and more profound.
 - Children come into the world with many relations. A child has natural relations with a vast number of things and thoughts.
 - There is a great inheritance of knowledge.
 - What are the formalities (educational) necessary to put the child in possession of that which is his.
 - The child is inheritor of all that is.
 - There is no fruitful conception or original idea that is outside of the child's scope.
 - In Christ we have a great inheritance, and this has implications for education.
 - Education is making valid those natural God-given, firstborn affinities of the child.
 - The child is a person with an enormous number of healthy affinities.
 - View the child objectively, and view education in a way that is entirely holistic.
 - Wisdom is far more holistic than simple knowledge.
 - For that sort of wisdom to occur (Aristotle), a person needed to gain the intellectual virtue of scientific knowledge.
 - For that sort of scientific knowledge to occur you needed to be able to prove something, you need to know it.
 - To get to wisdom, you needed intuition to be trained.
 - It is not just reason, there is also intuition.
 - This wisdom is what education is ultimately concerned with.
- Charlotte Masons two guides to self-management:



- The way of the will:
 - Children should be taught to distinguish between “I want” and “I will”.
 - The way to will effectively is to turn our thoughts from that which we desire but do not will.
 - The best way to turn our thoughts is to think of or do some quite different thing entertaining or interesting.
 - After a little rest in this way the will returns to its work with new vigor.
 - Charlotte Mason is attempting to give to the child a core moral insight.
 - How can you help students learn the way of the will? Give them a strong sense of duty.
- The way of the reason:
 - Scientific knowledge (reason) cannot be put on the throne. We have to have wisdom there.
 - The function of reason is to give logical demonstration of mathematical truth and of an initial idea accepted by the will.
 - Our reason will be happy to justify some wrong idea if accepted by our will.
 - We must rely on revelation and perception of initial ideas.
 - Children don't just need their intellects trained. They need principles of conduct and a wide range of knowledge. They need their intuition trained.
- There is no real separation between the intellectual life and the spiritual life.
 - We don't need to integrate faith and learning, they are already one. There is one unified knowledge out there, the science of relations.
 - Teach them that the divine spirit has constant access to their spirits.
 - Children should not be thought of as materialistic.
 - All truth is God's truth.
 - Follow the way of the will and walk in his paths. To do this it is necessary that we have the Holy Spirit's power at work in our lives.