



Charlotte Mason: A Liberal Education for All

with Jason Barney

Lecture 16: A Liberal Education For All

Outline:

A Liberal Education for All

- The divine image of all children.
 - All children are made in the image of God and are worthy of this liberal education.
 - “Eight years ago the ‘soul’ of a class of children in a mining village school awoke simultaneously at this magic touch [of knowledge] and has remained awake.” Charlotte Mason, Preface to *An Essay Towards a Philosophy of Education*
 - “It may be that the souls of **all children** are waiting for the call of knowledge to awaken them to delightful living.” Charlotte Mason, Preface to *An Essay Towards a Philosophy of Education*
 - All children should receive this large inheritance of a classical Christian education.
- The curriculum is the bread of life.
 - He requires much knowledge for the mind needs sufficient food as much as does the body.
 - The knowledge should be various.
 - Knowledge should be communicated in well-chosen language.
- Are we following this idea of a generous curriculum for all children?
- Are we working hard to bring classical Christian education to those who might not get a liberal education otherwise (Hope Academy). How can we bring a liberal education to all students?

Narration was the key to making this liberal education available to all.

- For Charlotte Mason, narration was the key that unlocked the door to this liberal education for all.
- It was by training students in the power of attention that students learned to love the beauty of these great stories of this language.
- Narration increased the engagement of students.
- We cannot level the playing field perfectly, but we want to set the same feast before all students. Each students will delight in the feast and take what he can.
- “All sit down to the same feast.” Charlotte Mason



- We are positive and hopeful and understanding of the challenges that children face. We can be a godly mentor.
- We can train students in a new habit to overcome natures.
- The love of beauty has a positive effect on the soul of the child who experiences it.
- Ultimately, this whole conception of education (atmosphere, discipline, and life) resonates with us with nature of the gospel itself.
 - We are brought from an age of slavery into a new creation.
 - In discipleship, we put of old habits and put on Christ. Our hope to change is in Him.
 - The nature of education participates in this grander story, the new life in Christ.