



Charlotte Mason: A Liberal Education for All with Jason Barney

Lecture 7: Atmosphere: Aesthetics and Relationships

Outline:

Aesthetics

- What do we have on our walls?
- How do we get students to have good tastes?
- Beauty and aesthetics matter. How do we teach students to love what is lovely?
- There is beauty in words, pictures, and music.
- There is a way that we can win the hearts of children, but make them prideful and arrogant.
 - That is not the sort of reverence for true beauty that we want to cultivate (elitism).
 - We do not strive for elitism.
- The sense of beauty is meant to give us the pleasures of life.
- Put much beauty before children and give them time to contemplate and observe it. Let the examples of beauty draw their hearts.
- Keep ourselves humble in the presence of beauty.
- There is a danger of putting too much stock in aesthetics.
- When students are humble and appreciate beauty, then that will change them.
- Charlotte Mason placed a high value upon quality literature. She is countering some of what we have been doing in our over devotion to Dorothy Sayers ideas about the grammar stage of learning.
- Are we giving meat to the minds of our children? Give the children classics and the great books at their level.

Relationships

- A relational atmosphere of nurture and challenge for students is so important.
- This is the atmosphere that helps a young child flourish and grow.
- Recreate the blessings of that old cottage atmosphere in our modern school setting.
- Relationships are the atmosphere. We are relational beings.
- Are we cultivating a community in our schools and our homeschool rooms?
- Children need to develop a general intimacy with many people and many places. They need some measure of leisure.
- How can we recreate this real life atmosphere in our modern world?



- The relationships between teacher's and children should disciple children to the good life.
- What can we do to avoid cliques?
- An atmosphere of Christian piety is the foundation stone.
- Before learning can begin their must be an education in love.