



Essentials of Effective Teaching

with Robyn Burlew

Lesson 2: Aiming at Human Flourishing

Outline:

The Aim of Education

- Teachers must have a clear idea of what we are teaching and why.
- The purpose of education is generally for human flourishing (humanity in its fullest as God created us to be).
- Currently we are trying for human flourishing with “side effects.”

There are 3 Levels of Goals for Education:

- Ultimate Goals
 - The long-term flourishing of students.
 - We want students to look back on a “life well lived.”
- Intermediate Goals
 - Learn to read, have a career, get into college, operate in life, balance a checkbook, etc.
 - Not unimportant but also not ultimate.
- Immediate Goals
 - Desire the lives of the students to be enriched now.
 - What we want from education today.
 - We want the student to start becoming the right sort of person right now.

Analysis of the Goals in the Classroom

- Lessons ought to keep in mind the mission statement.
- Remind yourself of the ultimate goals as you prepare lessons and communicate them through the lesson.
- Inclusion of the mission must be purposeful effort — it is not in the curriculum guide.
- Intermediate Goals can easily take the place of the Ultimate Goals if we are not careful.
- Telling students they need to learn something only because “it will be on the test” or “for college” are temporary goals not permanent goals to properly form students in the long run.
- Communicate that education has benefits and makes the student’s live richer TODAY.

Teaching Students to Understand the One Reality



- Only God knows the single true reality so we have to break it up to understand it.
- We do not naturally draw connections so the master must show the apprentice how to make those connections — to try to understand the one reality.

Caring for the Aesthetics and Rhythms of the Classroom

- Form the students' loves to the good and beautiful.
- This mission will impact the aesthetics, time management, organization, and planning.
- Always be evaluating your practices.
- Do not be hypocritical — actually do what you say is important in the classroom.