



A Brief History of Progressive Education with Dr. Jason Edwards

Lesson 4: Who was John Dewey

Outline:

“Knowledge, in the sense of information, means the working capital, the indispensable resources, of further inquiry; of finding out, or learning, more things. Frequently it is treated as an end in itself, and then the goal becomes to heap it up and display it when called for. This static, cold-storage ideal of knowledge is inimical to educative development.”

John Dewey

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”

Proverbs 9:10

“Wisdom begins in wonder.”

Socrates

“Wonder is the desire for knowledge.”

St. Thomas Aquinas

“There is only one man who gets his own way—he who can get it single-handed; therefore freedom, not power, is the greatest good. That man is truly free who desires what he is able to perform, and does what he desires. This is my fundamental maxim. Apply it to childhood, and all the rules of education spring from it.”

Jean Jacques Rousseau

Dewey Compared to Other Philosophers

- **Plato**
 - The human being must actively seek rational comprehension of the eternal and transcendent essence of reality in order to lead a moral life, conduct oneself with intelligence in public affairs, and in order to have any genuine knowledge of anything.
- **Aristotle**
 - He developed the “first systematic treatment of the principles of correct reasoning...”
 - He believed that teaching and habit were necessary for education, and consequently, the flourishing of the human being.



- **Rousseau**
 - He believed that social institutions, and culture in general, corrupted the inherent goodness of the human being.
 - He advocated for an education according to nature, respecting the autonomy of the child.
- **Dewey**
 - He believed that human existence is primarily biological and social with engagement in specific problems and objectives.
 - He believed that education is “growth”.
 - He believed that results determine truth.
 - He believed that education has social value and function.