



## How to Teach History with Wes Callihan

### Lesson 6: Essential Qualities and Practices of a History Teacher

#### Outline:

The chief quality of the historian: humility

- Have humility in the face of knowledge. You will never know everything about history.
- The study of history can teach humility before God. How much greater is God's knowledge than the body of knowledge of history.
- Accept guidance from other people. Model this for students.
- Humility should manifest itself in caution about being critical at the beginning and for quite some time.
- Be very slow to judge and draw conclusions. Hold conclusions at first lightly. Always know that you are a fallible human being.
- Read good books and discuss them with like-minded people.
  - Practice the discipline of history.
  - This is the essence of education.
  - Everything comes from God, so nothing is to be discounted.
  - Everything has the possibility of fruitful connections.
  - You have to have the curiosity and discipline to look for the connections.



Quintilian (pictured above): Copiousness and making connections that illuminate

- To be copious is to be full of things. Be full of connected, coherent, narrative knowledge. Be full and show the students how everything is connected.
- Model this for the students, because they ought to be copious too.
- Spark the student's interest for a love of history by means of your own delight.
- Aristotle: all people by nature love to learn.
  - It takes work to kill the love of learning in students (teachers give themselves too much to the formula and too much to the curriculum).
  - You can fan into flame something that is already there.

Emphasizing the narrative nature of history

- Read history to see the stories, everything is connected to the great story.
- Tell history to our students as stories.
- Prompt students to take a stand and seek virtue in their study of history.



- Show historical integration.
- Love your subject, love your student.
- Students will love the things you love.
- Discipline yourself to pray for your students.