



Introduction to Classical Education

with Dr. Christopher Perrin

Lesson 1: A Clear Definition of Classical Education

Outline:

How to define classical education? Latin: *De + Finis*

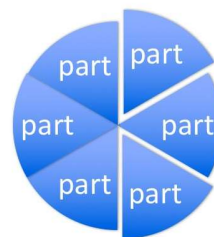
- Etymology - meaning of words
- Analogy - comparison
- Classification (Division) – looking at various flavors of classical education
- Comparison – defend classical education
 - Compare classical and progressive models of education

How could we simply define classical education?

- The liberal arts and the great books. Martin Cothran
- Not the development of a child but the formation of an adult
 - Focusing on maturity, full growth
- The transmission of the soul of society from one generation to another.
- Telling the truth to the last baby born. G.K. Chesterton
 - Emphasizes transmission and truth.
- Teaching children to love the things that are lovely. Augustine, Plato, & Aristotle
 - Cultivation of affections and loves.
- The cultivation of the soul on truth, goodness, and beauty. Andrew Kern
 - Developing a human soul by means of liberal arts and great books

The Word “Classical”

- Classical Music, Classical Languages, Classical Period, Classic Rock, Classic Literature
- Classical education is called classical because progressive modern education came along in late 1890s, and replaced classical education as the dominate approach to education.





Classical Classical Christian Education (Dictionary style definition)

- CCE is a **traditional** approach to education rooted in western civilization and culture, developed by the church, grounded in piety and governed by theology, employing the historic **curriculum** and **pedagogy** of the seven **liberal arts** in order to cultivate men and women characterized by **wisdom, virtue, and eloquence**.
- CCE is a **traditional** approach to education employing the historic **curriculum** and **pedagogy** of the seven **liberal arts** in order to **cultivate** men and women characterized by **wisdom, virtue and eloquence**.
- CCE is a **traditional** approach to education employing the seven **liberal arts** in order to **cultivate** men and women characterized by **wisdom, virtue and eloquence**.
- CCE employs the seven **liberal arts** and the **great books** in order to **cultivate** men and women characterized by **wisdom, virtue and eloquence**.
- CCE employs the seven **liberal arts** and the **great books**.

What is Classical Education?

- Classical Music, Classical Literature, Classical Languages, Classical History
- **Curricular definition:** A study of the seven liberal arts of grammar logic, rhetoric (the trivium), and arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy (the quadrivium).
- **Pedagogical definition:** A study of the seven liberal arts employing traditional teaching insights and methods (such as singing, chanting, Socratic discussion, and debate) passed down to us by past educators.
- **Soul-ish or psychological definition:** The cultivation of virtue by nourishing the soul on truth, goodness, and beauty by the means of the seven liberal arts.
- **Communal definition:** An approach to education that seeks to create a community of learning, characterized by academic rigor (vigor), warmth and delight and involving vibrant interactions of teachers, parents, friends, and others.
- **Linguistic definition:** A study of the Greek and Latin languages.
- **Linguistic and cultural definition:** A study of the Greek and Roman languages and the history, literature, art, philosophy and culture of Greek and Roman civilization.
- **Intellectual history definition:** A study of the great ideas of western civilization as contained in the classic “great books” produced by that civilization; a study of the “best that has been thought or said”.

Conclusion

- CCE is deep and wide and it takes time to comprehend.
- Action step: Write your own definition and discuss it.



- We define by noting limits and boundaries.
- We should note the whole (summary).
- We should note the parts (enumeration).
- We should note what it is and is not.
- We should clearly understand our terms.