



## Introduction to Classical Education

with Dr. Christopher Perrin

### Lesson 3: To What Shall I Compare Classical Education?

#### Outline:

How could we simply define classical education?

- The liberal arts and the great books.
- Not the development of a child but the formation of an adult
- The transmission of the soul of society from one generation to another.
- Telling the truth to the last baby born.
- Teaching children to love the things that are lovely.
- The cultivation of the soul on truth, goodness, and beauty.



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**.
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## Fruitful Analogies for Classical Education

### Nine Muses



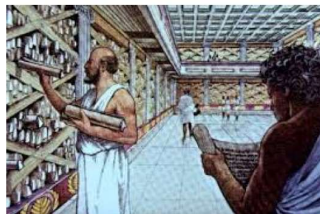
Muse	Study	Emblems
Calliope	Epic Poetry	Writing Tablet, Stylus, Lyre
Clio	History	Scrolls, Books, Coronet, Laurel Wreath
Euterpe	Music, Song, Lyric Poetry	Aulos, Panpipes, Laurel Wreath
Erato	Love Poetry	Cithara (similar to a lyre)
Melpomene	Tragedy	Tragic Mask, Sword, Club, Boots
Polyhymnia	Hymns	Veil, Grapes
Terpsichore	Dance	Lyre, Plectrum
Thalia	Comedy	Comic Mask, Shepherd's Crook
Urania	Astronomy	Globe, Compass

- **Museum**
  - The mother of the nine muses is Memory
  - Musa is related to the word music. The muses bring music to our lives.
  - Music meant the study inspired by wonder at the things that are true, good, and beautiful.
  - Museum meant the house of the muses, where the muses were inspiring learning, scholarship, and conversation.
  - Museum of Alexandria had a library and beautiful art was gathered. The museum was a kind of school.
  - Could you school or homeschool be like a museum, where wonder is cultivated and grown, and where we gather in the midst of the true, the good, and the beautiful?
  - Amusia is a Greek word that meant to be without inspiration. We want music, not mere amusement in our schools.

Museum in Alexandria



Museum in Alexandria



Museum in Alexandria





- Cathedral
  - The cathedral is large and grand and stands as a beacon.
  - It was built over generations.
  - It is rich and has stood the test of time.
  - This took a great treasure and a great amount of time to hand down something as beautiful as this.
  - Note the many doors in, indicating that a school has a number of ways to come in to enjoy the true, good, and beautiful.
    - Students may be interested in just one thing to get them into the “cathedral” then way will lead to way.
  - The cathedral faces east, is laid out like a cross, and has many chapels to the sides. There is often a theme in a cathedral. Your head goes up when you walk in.
  - The unity in diversity motif is present in many cathedral.
  - Christ is Lord over the entire enterprise.





- There is a progression/sequence. The cathedral also suggests this.
- The cathedral is large, it draws people together and creates unity under the Lordship of Christ in a sequence of growing.
- There were cathedral schools in the history of classical education where priests would conduct classes and train others
- Garden
  - This involves growth and things that are living.
  - The idea of potential of growth from a seed.
  - It is beautiful and tranquilizing.
  - It invites contemplation.
  - It is a lovely place to be alone and with companions and friends.
  - A garden requires care and cultivation, kindly attention and nourishment.
  - Weeding suggests that we are to teach and guide to eliminate their vices.



There is a divine presence needs. The chief gardener is God himself. It requires a kind of divine benevolence.

- Grand Table, Education as a Feast
  - The table is where we find sustenance.
  - We find things that are delightful and savory.
  - Plato writes a dialogue called the Symposium, which is a banquet with speech giving about love. This is a festive occasion where we can grow and learn together.
  - A place to linger and have long relaxed conversation.







- Who is at the table with you?
- Those who have gone before us are mystically able to be present. They are part of the Great Conversation.
- Christ is at the table inviting us to commune with him in the Eucharistic celebration of communion. Christ brings unity to the entire endeavor and celebration.
- The Monastery
  - A great number of Christians were educated in monasteries.
  - Monasteries were set up with a garden cloister in the center of a courtyard. Around the garden is a breezeway, which usually featured some art.
    - This includes both the museum motif as well as the garden motif with a place to sit and walk and talk.
  - There was also a church in the monastery and a chapter room for singing and discussion.
  - There were places of study around the courtyard with sunlight coming in through both sides of the classroom.
  - This is a place to break from the everyday busy world.
  - It is a place to contemplate, deliberate, sing, converse, fellowship, and break bread.
- Tower of Learning (similar to the cathedral)
  - The levels move through grammar, logic, rhetoric, and philosophy as you grow from being a child to an adult.
- Beehive
  - We are going forth and gathering the pollen that would be sweet, enjoyable and nourishing.
  - We should be discriminating when we go to read literature. The bees do not visit all the flower without discrimination. Taking what is adapted to their needs, they let the rest go. So we will take from the heathen books whatever befits us and avoid the rest. (Basil)
  - Is your classical school going out in a discriminating fashion to gather to make honey?
- A Great Road
  - Jeremiah 6 says to keep to the ancient paths.
  - You can still walk on the Apian Way.
  - Classical education is like walking along a tried and proven path.

