



The Liberal Arts Tradition with Dr. Kevin Clark and Ravi Jain

Lesson 17: Culture, Calling, and Curriculum

Outline:

Culture, Calling, and Curriculum

- The community is what develops the way of imparting the humanity to the young people.
- Educational philosophers were trying to reform the corrupt polis. Community was not working. They had to focus on education.
- Werner Yeager makes the point that educational philosophy only happens in the context where the culture is failing to produce the humanity in the children the way that you would want it to happen.

How can we create a cultural context in our school for the seeds of learning to grow even though the curriculum does not fit into the larger culture of modern America?

- The culture educates as much as the curriculum does.
 - House systems
 - Serve as a school off-campus
- Faculty culture influences student culture.
 - The idea of a school was a gathering of people who lived together in friendship seeking after the truth.
 - Plato said that he would never write a treatise on philosophy because it does not think that it (wisdom) could be taught. He thought wisdom could be taught in a group of men who live together in community and continually discourse about the good, something of a spark leaps from one man's heart to the soul of another.

Why calling?

- We are called to train our children in the paideia of the Lord. This is not optional. It is what we are called to do.
- We are classical because we are Christian. Christ calls us to honor our fathers and our mothers, and our elders. We have to participate in a posture of submission.
- Life Christ transforms us, Christ has transformed the classical curriculum.
- The scope of the curriculum begins in humility, humble submission to authorities (teachers, parents) directed by Christian piety.
 - God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.
 - If anyone seeks to save his life he will lose it, but he who lays his life down for may sake will save it.



- I do not create the foundations of my learning, but I receive them from someone else.
- The curriculum is a course in Christian formation.
- Christ has redeemed possibilities that were inherent in education, although those possibilities could not be realized by the ancients without Christ. Apart from Christ, the ancients lacked the full form and telos.
- The way we organize space, time, and language in the classroom communicates far more than the actual content of our classrooms.
 - What do we do about the culture of the school and the culture of the classroom (our liturgies)?
 - How do teachers imagine their teaching?
 - Cultivate loves through piety, gymnastic, and music
 - Cultivate the arts of language and math through growth in the understanding of the liberal arts
 - How could ordering time change for schools or teachers?
 - If you want to know what is most important for you, look at your calendar.
 - What are your immovable feast days? What are we privileging?
 - Do we begin together in prayer?
 - Is lunch time a time of rest when we enjoy fellowship over the table?
 - Is geometry learned in the same time increment as the discourse of moral philosophy?
 - **We have to be serious about time and space.**