



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

Lesson 2: Intro to the Paradigm for the Liberal Arts Tradition

Outline:

The Paradigm of the Liberal Arts Tradition

- Language of the trivium (arts of language) needed to be revived. It did not make sense, however, to try to fit math and science fully into the arts of language.
- The language found in the tradition about Christian formation was *piety*.
- **What is the proper rule of piety and theology to help cultivate Christians who are sincere in their love and devotion to Christ?**
- There is language in the tradition to capture ideas of artistic and aesthetic qualities that we want to cultivate in our students as well as embodied learning.
- Teaching natural science and mathematics is part of the quadrivium.
- All truth is God's truth.
 - We like to think God's thoughts after him.
 - God is integrated. He knows reality truly.
 - What does it look like to learn about the created world and humanity in an integrated way?
 - Who integrated before us?
 - Natural Philosophy: Creation
 - Moral Philosophy: Man and his society
 - Divine Philosophy (Metaphysics): Image of the divine, image of eternity, image of absolutes
 - Divine Revelation: Theology was teased apart from philosophy. The word of God is not something that you can get from looking at natural science or human society.
 - There is a rich tradition of integrative thought in the loci of natural philosophy, moral philosophy, metaphysics, and theology.
 - Theology governed the whole enterprise as the queen of the sciences. She is a servant queen.
- **The trivium and the quadrivium are not enough. Together these only train the mind.**
 - The gymnastic and music are for the training of the bodies and the tuning of the souls.
 - Christian formation is grounded in piety and governed by theology.



C.S. Lewis, The Abolition of Man

- Lewis does not say anything about the trivium, what he does say is that in the ancient world (classical civilizations to the Chinese world) there is a common project of forming the hearts and minds of young men and women.
 - This is the task of old birds teaching young birds how to fly.
- Aristotle says the goal of education is that the young man learns justly and rightly to hate the evil, but to love and earnestly desire the good (Plato says the same thing).
- What Augustine calls the ordering of loves is the essence of education.
- **Grammar, dialectic, and rhetoric no matter how creatively taught do not seem like they are enough to do the work of shaping the love, actions and desires of young men and women.**
 - What untapped resources are there in the mathematical arts that could compliment the language arts into a full-orbed curriculum?
- The larger educational project is actually to make followers of Jesus Christ. That is bigger than liberal arts. The liberal arts are not enough, they were part of a larger framework of the cultivation of a human being.
- To have a mature and robust paradigm that is truly classical and Christian it has to address more than just the mind (more than the language arts and mathematical arts), but training the affections and the habits.
 - The ancients had bodies of wisdom about different aspects of reality.
 - This would govern the way that people would learn and study the world. It would provide which questions were important questions to investigate.
- The liberal arts are an essential gift, but they fit into a much larger landscape of moral, intellectual, and bodily formation in training in the virtues that started with tuning the heart and proceeded toward wisdom about the world (natural world, world of human history, the world governed by God, and the world we understand in light of the revelation of Jesus Christ, apostles, the Church).



The Seven Liberal Arts
by Matt Clark