



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

Lesson 3: Introduction to the PGMAPT Paradigm

Outline:

PGMAPT

- The early attempts of classical education made the liberal arts do the heavy lifting of moral education.
- Piety, gymnastic, and music provide the pre-critical, pre-analytic, pre-liberal art's "soulcraft".
- Piety
 - Piety is informed by theology, nevertheless it is not theology.
 - Piety is practices. Piety is training students in loves and affections and feelings of responsibility and duty toward God, their neighbor, and their parents.
 - Piety is a turning the disposition of someone toward the good and toward the true.
- Gymnastic
 - Pre-critical ways of training and mastering the body for the good of the soul and moral virtue.
- Music
 - A pre-analytic encounter with the sources of knowledge with story, with the things that later on are going to be explored in the arts and the sciences.
- Piety, gymnastic, and music continue to be a priority. This imaginative, wonderful context for education that is directed toward wisdom and being able to act in the world is undergirded by piety, gymnastic and music.
- Liberal Arts
 - Aquinas suggests that these are to cultivate the virtue of the intellect.
 - Understand language properly gives one deep insights into the nature of reality.
 - The literary arts of the Trivium: Grammar, dialectic, and rhetoric
 - The mathematical arts of the Quadrivium: Arithmetic, Geometry, Astronomy, Music
 - There is an element of mathematical science in the Quadrivium. Natural science was reflected in the Quadrivium.
- The search for truth should end in the love of wisdom. Get wisdom, seek her (Proverbs). **Philosophy:**
 - Natural philosophy: The love of wisdom within nature.



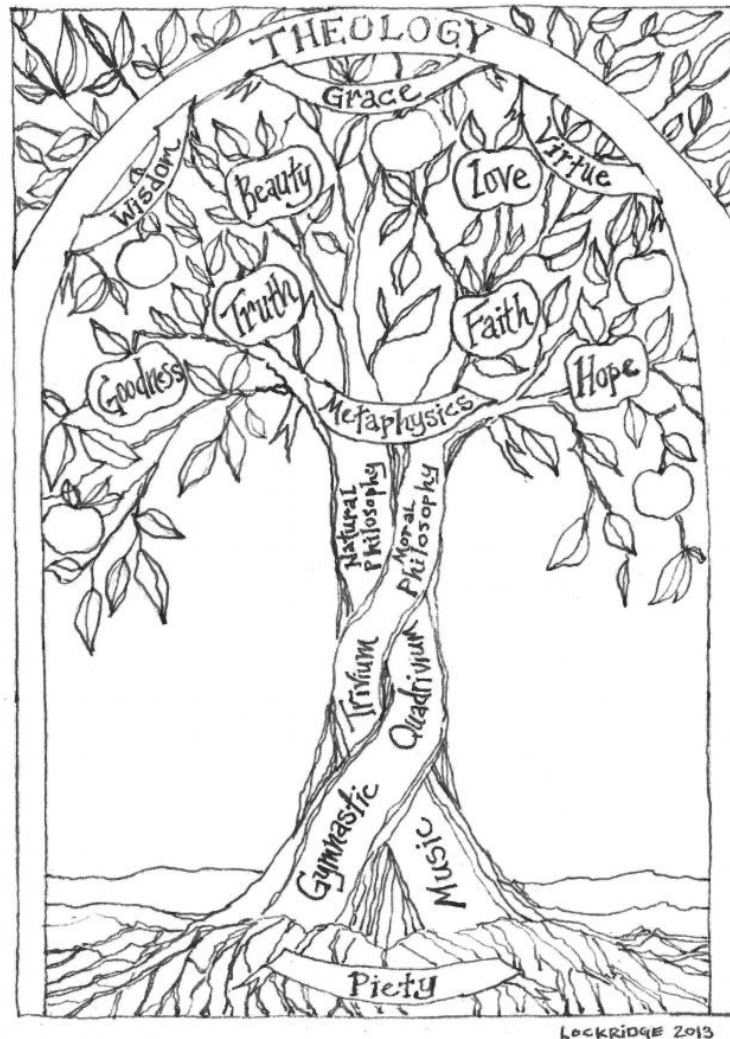
- Moral philosophy: The love of wisdom within human and social reality.
- Metaphysics (Divine philosophy): What are the eternal truths that they were looking for?
- Theology:
 - Christ transformed everything. Piety is Christian piety, fundamentally about Christ. What we have in the Scriptures helps focus the science of divine revelation (study of theology).
 - Grounded in piety, governed by theology.
- The love of wisdom and theology directs our earliest movements.
 - Philosophy and theology direct our piety and practices and our gaze toward the true and the good and the beautiful.
 - Being made a lover through piety, gymnastic, and music, that love is directed at wisdom that is finally found in Wisdom, Who became flesh and dwelled among us.

PGMAPT to Practice

- As a grammar school teacher, you have a threefold primary objective:
 - The arts of language
 - The arts of math
 - The love of narrative (story)
- The most important thing is not covering curriculum, but uncovering the wonder.
- Gymnastic education is not an add-on. You should tune the heart by training the body.
- Piety is at the beginning and should infuse everything.
 - Piety is for Christ.
 - The way we play becomes the way we think of justice.
- The way we order our children's days is the way we order their affections.
 - Do we begin in prayer?
 - Is my learning bound together in fellowship with my neighbor?
- The liberal art of music (Augustine, *De Musica*):
 - An art joins imitation with reason.
 - Math is not just imitative. Rote memory is not enough. Is rote memory primary? Perhaps puzzle, proof, and play are primary ways of thinking about mathematics.
- For a natural science teacher:
 - Some of the questions that come up continuously in natural science can be simplified by looking at the history of science.
 - There is a way to look alongside of Galileo, Pascal, Newton, and Einstein. You can see why they are asking the questions that they are asking.
 - If students know the question that scientists were asking, then they get to participate in the process of getting to know reality.



- If this is done properly, by the time students come to the formal study of theology, the students should have most of the theological categories because theology ordered everything from the beginning.
- Every way you teach presupposes some idea of what human beings are like.
 - **Human beings are rational, but not primarily thinkers or believers, but primarily lovers. Our loves are at the center of our thinking and our believing and our acting.**



The Liberal Arts Tradition Tree
by Rachel Lockridge