



## New Old Way Conference in Africa with Robyn Burlew

Presentation by Robyn  
Burlew

### Outline:

How do we begin to make changes in our classrooms and schools?

- Go slowly. Choose one thing to do first.

This classical way is new because we did not experience it ourselves.

- This is new to us in how we understand our role as teachers.
- In modern education teachers must just deliver information and manage the children.
- Efficiency and measurable test results are kings in modern progressive education.
- A classical teacher cannot be replaced by a computer.
- The teacher is the curriculum.
  - We become like the people who we are around, especially the people we admire.
  - Children play by pretending to do things that they see adults doing.
  - “Watch me and do what I do.”

We must think more about the people in the room and what it is to be human.

- Our anthropology will determine our practices.
- We must get our anthropology right.
- People are made in the image of God (imago Dei).
- Our students' worth is not determined by their intelligence and their obedience. Each child's worth is the same.
- We must both honor and correct students.
- We also are glorious image bearers and broken sinners. We must be humble.

We must think rightly about the goals of education.

- We must look at the horizon to see where we should be headed.
- Our goals must not just be for our students cannot be simply for them to be successful in future years of school. School is not an end in itself.
- The goal for our students is that they be virtuous old men and women someday, who can look back at their lives and see that they lived it well.

We cannot motivate our students toward learning in damaging ways.

- We cannot use fear as a motivator.



- We must call them to diligence in their learning, we must invite them to the feast of learning, and we must induct them into the tradition of learning.
  - An invitation beckons them. An invitation says, “This is what you get to do.”
  - We must invite our students to our classrooms and to learning. Love books and numbers in front of your students.
  - We are the masters and they are the apprentices (or disciples). We must inspire our students with beautiful and complex things.
  - The teacher is the curriculum. This ought to encourage us and terrify us.
  - We induct our students into the tradition of the Trivium and the Mathematical Arts.

How we ought to interact with our students.

- We need to know what our students are like (typical development, temptations, etc.)
- Ask your parents to tell you about their children. We should look for ways to know as much as we can about our students.
- We must also love our students. Love your neighbor as yourself. This love will not always be soft.
- 1 Thessalonians 5
  - We must admonish the idle.
  - We must encourage the fainthearted.
  - We must help the weak.
  - We need to give our students what they need.
  - Be patient with them all.