



Patristics and Christian Learning with Dr. Jordan Wood

Optional Discussion,
Part 2: Dr. Jordan
Wood and Michael
Hornbaker

Outline:

Optional Discussion: Dr. Jordan Wood and Michael Hornbaker

- **Michael:** So much of what is happening with social media is dealing with the insecurity that we feel as people. We're also talking about Christian learning as the pursuit of wisdom. How do we start to desire wisdom? The greatest impetus for the pursuit of wisdom is some need that I become aware of. How might we stimulate awareness of that need for wisdom as a way to begin the exploration?
- **Jordan:** We can go back to Plato and say that it all begins in wonder. Ask what seems like simple questions, but refuse to accept simple answers. Ask why about everything in order to search for purpose. I wonder how you would answer your own question here.
- **Michael:** I've found the most immediate context for raising awareness of need is our resources for navigating relational breakdown, which when you're a teenager happens with some frequency. Another path to that awareness is prayer requests.
- **Jordan:** What do we praise in our students? That will also tell them what you value. What is it that you think a classical Christian education perspective brings to the idea that education is about skills, jobs, and money?
- **Michael:** Recognize your accountability to others. This creates a context for what we are really after in education. Most students don't have a lot of interaction with people who are older than them. This is another appeal for why we read (the Church Fathers).
- **Jordan:** We've all had the experience of looking out in a room full of faces thinking that I have no idea if anything I am saying or anything they're reading or anything we're talking about is landing or affecting them. If we believe that the logos is in all things then there is never a question that something is happening. This gives me hope as a teacher.
- **Michael:** A good caution is that our despair doesn't turn to disdain. Be ready to always take more responsibility than you are asking your students to take.
- **Jordan: Even though this world crucified Christ, Christ crucified has become the wisdom of God.**
- **Michael:** It feels like for many students that we're conditioned to flee suffering. Part of the cruciform pattern of the gospel is that life is revealed in death. Some of the most beautiful writing has emerged in the context of



profound human suffering. Why is this that the best comes out in the most severe suffering? What do we lose if we always running from our suffering?

- **Jordan:** God became the one thing we didn't think God could become in the incarnation.
- **Michael:** *For Christ plays in ten thousand places lovely in limbs and lovely in eyes not his to the Father through the features of men's faces.*