



## Grammar School Symposium: Introduction to Classical Education and Grammar School Teaching with Dr. Christopher Perrin

### Lesson 1: A Clear Definition of Classical Education

#### Outline:

How to define classical education? Latin: *De + Finis*

- Etymology - meaning of words
- Analogy - comparison
- Classification (Division) – looking at various flavors of classical education
- Comparison – defend classical education
  - Compare classical and progressive models of education

How could we simply define classical education?

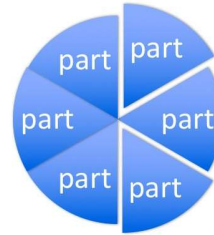
- The liberal arts and the great books. Martin Cothran
- Not the development of a child but the formation of an adult
  - Focusing on maturity, full growth
- The transmission of the soul of society from one generation to another.
- Telling the truth to the last baby born. G.K. Chesterton
  - Emphasizes transmission and truth.
- Teaching children to love the things that are lovely. Augustine, Plato, & Aristotle
  - Cultivation of affections and loves.
- The cultivation of the soul on truth, goodness, and beauty. Andrew Kern
  - Developing a human soul by means of liberal arts and great books

The Word “Classical”

- Classical Music, Classical Languages, Classical Period, Classic Rock, Classic Literature



- Classical education is called classical because progressive modern education came along in late 1890s, and replaced classical education as the dominate approach to education.



## Classical Christian Education (Dictionary style definition)

- CCE is a **traditional** approach to education rooted in western civilization and culture, developed by the church, grounded in piety and governed by theology, employing the historic **curriculum** and **pedagogy** of the seven **liberal arts** in order to cultivate men and women characterized by **wisdom, virtue, and eloquence**.
- CCE is a **traditional** approach to education employing the historic **curriculum** and **pedagogy** of the seven **liberal arts** in order to **cultivate** men and women characterized by **wisdom, virtue and eloquence**.
- CCE is a **traditional** approach to education employing the seven **liberal arts** in order to **cultivate** men and women characterized by **wisdom, virtue and eloquence**.
- CCE employs the seven **liberal arts** and the **great books** in order to **cultivate** men and women characterized by **wisdom, virtue and eloquence**.
- CCE employs the seven **liberal arts** and the **great books**.

## What is Classical Education?

- Classical Music, Classical Literature, Classical Languages, Classical History
- **Curricular definition:** A study of the seven liberal arts of grammar logic, rhetoric (the trivium), and arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy (the quadrivium).
- **Pedagogical definition:** A study of the seven liberal arts employing traditional teaching insights and methods (such as singing, chanting, Socratic discussion, and debate) passed down to us by past educators.
- **Soul-ish or psychological definition:** The cultivation of virtue by nourishing the soul on truth, goodness, and beauty by the means of the seven liberal arts.
- **Communal definition:** An approach to education that seeks to create a community of learning, characterized by academic rigor (vigor), warmth and



- delight and involving vibrant interactions of teachers, parents, friends, and others.
- **Linguistic definition:** A study of the Greek and Latin languages.
  - **Linguistic and cultural definition:** A study of the Greek and Roman languages and the history, literature, art, philosophy and culture of Greek and Roman civilization.
  - **Intellectual history definition:** A study of the great ideas of western civilization as contained in the classic “great books” produced by that civilization; a study of the “best that has been thought or said”.

## Conclusion

- CCE is deep and wide and it takes time to comprehend.
- Action step: Write your own definition and discuss it.
- We define by noting limits and boundaries.
- We should note the whole (summary).
- We should note the parts (enumeration).
- We should note what it is and is not.
- We should clearly understand our terms.