



Course: The Seven Liberal Arts with Christopher Perrin and Andrew Kern

Lesson 3: The Seven Liberal Arts Part 2
with Andrew Kern

Outline:

Jesus (Logos) and the Seven Liberal Arts

- Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, is Logos (the Word).
- An education that begins with Christ (Logos) begins with the reason of God; this education is manifested in the Seven Liberal Arts.
- The Seven Liberal Arts, for Andrew Kern, are the *Seven Liberating Arts of Truth, Perception, and Harmony*.

Why the Liberating “Arts”? (5:18)

- Art, in Latin, means “a way of making.”
- Three Types of Arts:
 - *Servile arts* are for a specific end; an object is made for the good of humankind.
 - *Fine arts* are arts that are an end in themselves, such as painting for the purpose of painting.
 - *Liberal arts* are arts that make people free.
- An art is not a science; the sciences depend on the mastery of the 7 liberal arts first.

The Seven Liberal Arts (10:30)

- Trivium: “Threefold path,” or the 3 language arts of Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric
- Quadrivium: “Fourfold path,” or the 4 mathematical arts of Geometry, Arithmetic, Music, and Astronomy

Why the “Liberating” Arts? (13:20)

- The liberating arts are the conditions of free people.
- Many people have been free without mastering the 7 arts at school, but no society has ever been free without mastering the 7 liberal arts.
- They teach humans 7 different skill sets that allow them to perceive truth in the world.

How Do the Liberating Arts set us free? (14:45)



- In John 8:32, Jesus says, “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (NIV)
- While the liberating arts do not set us free from sin, they do illuminate a freedom that hints at the ultimate freedom from sin.
- As we order our thought to the Logos, our mind will follow an educational pattern that helps us know and interact with a world that is divinely created.

How does truth set us free? (17:20)

- Without truth, a human mind is bound.
 - For example, if a child in the 1st grade decides that $7 + 2 = 10$, he is not free. If, however, he learns that $7 + 2 = 9$, he is free. Now that he knows the value of 9, he is free to make more mathematical discoveries.
 - Similarly, when humans think coherent thoughts with proper grammar, their thoughts are harmonized; *harmony is needed for freedom.*

Conventions vs. Real Things (22:35)

- Humans agree on conventions, such as choosing a comma’s shape, but beneath those conventions are realities.
 - For example, the word “cat” is a convention, but the reality is that the real animal exists.
- Direct your students’ attention to the real rather than conventions.

The Importance of Truth (24:32)

- The liberal arts are the arts of truth perception—they enable us to see true things!
 - God created humanity in his image; when we use grammar correctly, we align ourselves with the world outside our mind.
- The 7 liberal arts enable us to communicate truth with others.
- We see truth when we see the essence of a thing/substance and when we see relationships between things.

Breakdown of the Seven Liberal Arts

- **Grammar**
 - Grammar occurs when a thought agrees with itself.
 - When a complete thought (a sentence) makes sense, humans see truth.
- **Logic**
 - Logic is a series of thoughts that agree with each other; logic formalizes.
 - Making thoughts agree with each other in a sequence assists *truth perception.*



- When a string of thoughts is in disarray, the human mind is in disarray.
- **Rhetoric** (31:32)
 - The art of rhetoric brings harmony to a series of thoughts among people in a community.
 - Rhetoric builds harmony in a community because it allows a community to see truth together.
 - When a community sees truth, they are free; in this way, rhetoric is necessary for a free society.
- **Arithmetic** (33:18)
 - Arithmetic brings numbers into agreement with each other.
 - For example, $7 + 2 = 10$ is a discord, but $7 + 2 = 9$ is agreement (harmony).
- **Geometry** (34:34)
 - Geometry is how to see truth in relation to shapes, in relation to the world around us.
- **Harmonia**, or Music (35:00)
 - In harmonia, humans seek patterns and harmonies to gain a sensitivity of the truth revealed by that form.
 - Music is actively making a harmony.
- **Astronomy** (35:39)
 - The art of astronomy (not the science) is the measuring of shapes that are moving.
 - Astronomy teaches humans how to bring harmony to their thoughts and the movement of shapes.

The Liberating Arts of Truth, Perception, and Harmony (37:15)

- We know that truth is harmonious—this is why inconsistent thoughts bother us; we are made for harmony with others and ultimately with God.
- Humans have a God-given sensitivity to harmony, but the 7 liberal arts train and cultivate this sensitivity.
- If humans want to be mentally healthy, they must develop habits and skills of bringing their thoughts into harmony.
- **The ultimate goal:** to harmonize the thoughts of children, humans, communities, and the cosmos!