



Urban Classical Education with Russ Gregg

Lesson 2: Can We Really Close the Achievement Gap?

Outline:

Introduction

- Classical Christian urban education can address the most significant social justice issue of our day—educational injustice
- Most discussions about closing the achievement gap today focus on misleading or superficial understandings of the root of the problem
- We must address the spiritual root of the problem—the spiritual brokenness of our inner cities
- The story of JaShawn: The sad story of a young man who is Russ' neighbor

Hopes Five Core Strategies

- The greatest hope for reversing the crisis is found in **the transformation promised in the gospel of Christ.**
 - Note the books by Paul Tough (*How Children Succeed*) and David Brooks (*The Road to Character*) that tell us that virtuous character is the greatest asset we can give a child. The greatest virtues are “the fruit of the Spirit.”
 - Authentic relationships between teacher and student founded on the love of God
 - Racial harmony by means of God breaking down the dividing walls of hostility
 - The recovery of Objective Truth without which education will self-destruct
- **Expecting great things from inner-city families**
- **Engaging and involving inner-city parents**
- **Holding teachers, parents, and students accountable for their responsibilities**
- **Funding the school with scholarship partners**
- **Conclusion:** The story of DaVonne: a remarkable story of achievement