



Beginner Certificate in Classical Education for Parents with Dr. Christopher Perrin

Lesson 1: Introduction: What is Classical Education?

Outline:

What is classical education?

- Classical education is a tradition of the liberal arts, the natural sciences, and the great books.
- Classical education is a tradition based on education rather than job training.
- Educatio meant raising one up to full maturity. This was largely an education in virtue.
- What is education in virtue? What are the liberal arts? Why were they called liberal? Why are they called arts and not science? What is an art? What is a science?
- The liberal arts:
 - Verbal Arts: Grammar, Logic, Rhetoric
 - Mathematical Arts: Arithmetic, Geometry, Astronomy, Music
 - Words and number are what humans do and animals do not do.
 - The liberal arts are called liberal because they maintain and create freedom.
 - The liberal arts are called arts (not sciences) because arts make you and make you into a maker. Our humanity is made as we study the liberal arts.
- Natural sciences:
 - A science is a body of knowledge that is collected and governed by universal principles.
 - You need the liberal arts to do science (to make science).
- The liberal arts gives us access to anything that has been written (to access the great books).
- The liberal arts helps us to grow into a person of virtue.
 - Virtue meant becoming the fullest version of yourself. Anything humans could do with excellence is described as virtue (educational, intellectual virtues for students – perseverance, industry, temperance, love, humility).