



ACS Biblical Worldview of Education

ACS begins all our educational efforts by recognizing that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” Not only is this true for our overall educational philosophy, but also for each discipline of study we teach. Education is not made “Christian” by merely adding a course in Bible or by beginning a class in prayer. If the course content or teaching method originates from a humanistic perspective, or worldview, then “Christian” supplements will do very little to change the orientation.

A goal of Christian curriculum is to strive to develop its fundamental principles from an integrated wholistic approach to understanding God’s Word and work them out in a culturally relevant manner for each subject matter taught in the classroom. ACS provides parents and students with these principles as well as the content and skills which enable them to develop a biblical worldview in each subject. The following is an overview of ACS curriculum.

Biblical Studies

Foundational to the Christian curriculum is an integrated wholistic approach to understanding the Bible. Students need an integrated wholistic understanding of the Word of God in order to critically evaluate the writings of men. Teaching from an integrated wholistic approach in a culturally appropriate and historical context focuses on the inspired text of the Bible. The purpose of our Bible curriculum is not the mere study of religion, nor even historical studies of Bible characters, but to teach from a unified understanding of the biblical system of truth. It is this integrated system of truth that students are asked to grasp as it provides the fundamental principles of a Christian worldview which must be applied to every area of life and thought.

To properly learn each subject, other than the Bible, the student must not only be able to read documents from that subject, but he must also have a biblical standard by which to judge what he reads. Therefore, the very first principle that a child should be taught is that the Bible provides the standard for all learning in all subjects. The Bible is the mind of God for all of life revealed to man. From it we learn about creation, the fall of man into sin, and God’s gracious plan of redemption. It is this knowledge which provides the key to right thinking and enables the student to correctly interpret all he learns in the light of God’s truth.

Consequently, studying God’s Word helps us understand God’s creative handiwork, His laws and patterns and should naturally lead to a sense of awe and amazement of God as we contemplate wonders of all of His creation. This sense of awe should motivate the student to participate with God in His overall purpose of restoring all people groups/languages/cultures/nations from their fallen state using the language and culture they understand best.

Culture, Art, and Technology

The arts and technology are gifts given to men by the Holy Spirit. When an artist paints a picture, a musician composes a song, an architect designs a building, or an engineer designs a machine, each is using his/her God-given talent. Every gift should be used to reflect the wisdom of its Giver and imitate the beauty and usefulness of His creative work. The humanistic worldview sees culture, art, and technology as existing only for self-expression, human



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enjoyment, and self-promotion of one's abilities. The non-Christian use of culture, in essence, is an expression of revolt against God and glorification of oneself. Man thinks that he can create out of nothing something totally original. However, the biblical perspective is that when man creates, he is not creating something absolutely new, but merely discovering a potentiality which has existed from the beginning. Its proper use becomes a blessing from God for the benefit of men, while its misuse becomes a means of self-promotion and vanity.

Because the arts and technology create works that express thought and emotion, they exert a moral influence on one's behavior. The arts and technology can be powerful forms of spiritual fellowship, development, insight and motivation; spiritual because thoughts, emotions, and actions are always moral, and fellowship because of the sharing between artist and audience.

Arts and technology also should provide a means of instruction and encouragement to pursue a stronger bond with the Creator of the universe.

For the Christian, this imposes a serious responsibility. It means we are not to pursue and entertain art and technology which promotes thoughts, emotions, and behavior contrary to the character of God. Instead, students should be taught to enjoy art and develop technology that reflects the glory of God's creation and ministers to others. The student is to develop his/her talents in harmony with God's truth and law. Furthermore, the Christian should use both the arts and technology, either directly or indirectly, to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ and thereby promote a biblical understanding of God's world. In so doing, the student will learn how to employ his/her skills to advance the kingdom of God on earth for His honor and glory.

Consequently, as a tool for studying God's creative handiwork, learning culture, art and technology from a biblical perspective helps discover God's creation with its laws and patterns, and should naturally lead to a sense of awe and amazement of God as we contemplate the myriad wonders of His creation. This sense of awe should motivate the student to use his/her talents in art and technology to participate with God in His overall purpose of restoring all people groups/languages/cultures/nations from their fallen state using the language and culture they understand best.

Economics

God is the possessor of the earth, the source of all wealth. He owns it all, and gives it to whomever He wills. He has also ordained laws to govern human economics. As Americans, we live in a country with privileges to own private property, to choose an occupation, to make a profit, and to decide how earnings should be spent. Yet, because God owns all things, the curriculum is taught to exercise these privileges as God's stewards in such a way that makes Him famous.

To exercise these economic privileges, Scripture provides guidelines for an economic system that glorifies God with expressions of compassion and charity toward the needs of others. Such an economic system is based upon hard work, competition, and the risks of the financial marketplace. These factors compel sellers to use their skills and economic resources more



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carefully, which produces a higher quality of goods and services at very reasonable prices. The proper role of the Christian is to serve as a steward of God's resources and His provisions, praising Him regardless of the ups and downs, the good and evils in the marketplace.

Individual wealth is a result of economic shrewdness, hard work and the blessing of God. Corporate and/or cultural wealth happens when ideally, men understand and follow God's law in the economic realm, when Christianity has a significant bearing on economic life; when men respect each other's property, refuse to steal from one another, or cheat one another, abide by contracts, and, when in charge of a corporation or elected to public office, power is not used to amass wealth for their own selfish ends. God's law provides guidance to a healthy and satisfying economic culture when His guidelines are followed.

Consequently, as a tool for studying God's creative handiwork, learning economics from a biblical perspective helps discover God's creation with its laws and patterns, and should naturally lead to a sense of awe and amazement of God as we contemplate wonders of His creation. This sense of awe should motivate the student to understand and use their biblical understanding of economic principles to participate with God in His overall purpose of restoring all people groups/languages/cultures/nations from their fallen state using the language and culture they understand best.

Geography

For man to rule over the earth as God has commanded, he must have a practical knowledge of geography. The study of geography must begin with the Bible. Here God reveals that the earth consists of separate but interrelated parts which originally derive from a unified whole. During the worldwide flood in the days of Noah, the surface and appearance of the earth were greatly changed. With this important knowledge, the student can properly study the great continents and oceans, their particular characteristics, their many natural resources, the variety of climates and weather patterns, and God's ingenious ecological balance over all of it.

We also learn in Scripture that the origin of all people groups/languages/cultures/nations can be traced from one man, "Adam" with one language. From one man and one language, God diversified mankind at the Tower of Babel. It was there, from that one language, that God created a multitude of languages and laid the basis for the eventual spread of all people groups/languages/cultures/nations across the globe which also eventually and purposely led to Jesus' foundational and famous missional charge, to "Go make disciples of all nations." The student will understand that helping all nations to understand the goodness of God from a culturally appropriate communication platform, in the language created for them by God Himself, has always been the plan of God since the beginning of time.

Understanding this fundamental biblical worldview concept first, the student is then able to properly study the geographical circumstances of the various nations, both ancient and modern. The student studies their locations, their natural resources, physical environments, and general climates, their language and their culture as planned and created by God. The student learns how these geographical traits affect the nations' economies, their position in



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world trade, their military defense capabilities, and the level of their independence of, or dependence upon other nations and God Himself.

Consequently, as a tool for studying God's creative handiwork, learning geography from a biblical perspective helps discover God's creation with its laws and patterns, and should naturally lead to a sense of awe and amazement of God as we contemplate wonders of His creation. This sense of awe should motivate the student to use their biblical understanding of geography to participate with God in His overall purpose of restoring all people groups/languages/cultures/nations from their fallen state using the language and culture they understand best.

Government

The study of government (political science) and politics must also be grounded in the Word of God. In studying civil law and government, we need God's infallible standard in order to distinguish justice from injustice. Because civil government enacts laws, it is concerned with deciding right and wrong. Right and wrong, however, have to do with morality, and morality is a spiritual matter. This means that civil government, by its very nature, is a spiritual institution.

The student who learns to view governments from a biblical perspective has the proper criterion by which to analyze human governments of the past and present as to their structure, laws, and policies. This knowledge will provide the student with the understanding necessary for intelligent Christian living under the authority of civil law, and stimulate him/her to promote a responsible government regulated by God's law.

Consequently, as a tool for studying God's creative handiwork, learning about government from a biblical perspective helps discover God's creation with its laws and patterns, and should naturally lead to a sense of awe and amazement of God as we contemplate wonders of His creation. This sense of awe should motivate the student to use their biblical understanding of civil law and government to participate with God in His overall purpose of restoring all people groups/languages/cultures/nations from their fallen state using the language and culture they understand best.

Health and Physical Education

The purpose of health and physical education is to care for our bodies in ways that draw attention to God and not ourselves. Our bodies are designated by God to be used as "the temple of the Holy Spirit." A healthy body enables one to serve God consistently, diligently, and to perform the duties He commands. Therefore, principles of proper diet, exercise, and rest are taught for the purpose of students becoming vessels of noble use to God, maintaining good physical health and a positive mental outlook.

Physical education also helps prepare students for responsible leadership and effective work. Students are taught to play and work in such a way that brings attention to God, and not themselves. Due to sin, we are naturally inclined toward laziness. Consequently, physical exercise and sports, when combined with determination, can play an important part in



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developing self-discipline. Through competition students are taught the importance of playing fairly by the rules, accepting direction from those in authority, using skills in harmony with others, and being gracious in victory as well as in defeat.

Consequently, as a tool for studying God's creative handiwork, studying health and physical education from a biblical perspective helps discover God's creation with its laws and patterns, and should naturally lead to a sense of awe and amazement of God as we contemplate wonders of His creation. This sense of awe should motivate the student to use their biblical understanding of health and physical education to participate with God in His overall purpose of restoring all people groups/languages/cultures/nations from their fallen state using the language and culture they understand best.

History

The Bible clearly reveals that God is the Lord of history. He governs all nations and peoples by means of His providence. He acts indirectly and directly in history through blessings and judgments upon the earth. The fulfilled prophecies recorded in Scripture demonstrate that history has not only been planned by God, from the very beginning of time, but also proceeds according to His purpose. The purpose towards which all history is directed is for all people groups/languages/cultures/nations to see and understand the goodness and greatness of their Creator expressed in the provision of a savior in Jesus, and for them to respond in worship as a result. For this reason, all history—ancient, medieval, and modern—must be viewed as the sovereign rule of God over the affairs of men.

A proper understanding of history is founded upon the key events of creation, man's fall into sin, the distribution of all sinful people groups/languages/cultures/nations across the globe, and God's unrelenting pursuance to reveal his goodness and grace to them all everywhere in every time period through the death and resurrection of his own Son on cross with his subsequent resurrection from the dead, and return. Creation sets the stage for God's plan to reveal His goodness and grace through the events of history. Adam's sin begins His-story. History has one purpose; to express the goodness of God to mankind. Its meaning and interpretation must be understood in terms of God's eternal plan to reveal His goodness and grace to each people group/language/culture/nation through the death of His Son. History is more than a chronicle of names, dates, places, and events.

History is the study of the moral or covenantal relationship between God and man through time. It centers on the redemptive work of Jesus and how He is building His church. All earlier events must look forward to the cross. All later events must be viewed as the hand of God directing history toward the final victory of the risen Christ at the end of the age and drawing people groups/languages/cultures/nations to Him as each bows their knees in worship to Him.

ACS history study focuses on the unfolding of world history with a special emphasis on the shaping of Europe and America through the efforts of Christians as they applied God's Word to their nation and culture. Students will be equipped to study the vain attempts of unfaithful men to build the kingdom of man. Those who have attempted to destroy Jesus and His Kingdom in



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order to reestablish pagan ideas in the civil, ecclesiastical, and academic disciplines will have their lives and works evaluated by the standards found in the Bible. This comparison will give insight as we work by His grace in our day to live out God's principles in our lives, families, and nation. In obedience to God, God's people in every generation are commissioned to diligently work to advance His kingdom on earth through the gospel for His honor and glory.

Consequently, as a tool for studying God's creative handiwork, learning history from a biblical perspective helps discover God's creation with its laws and patterns, and should naturally lead to a sense of awe and amazement of God as we contemplate wonders of His creation. This sense of awe should motivate the student to use their biblical understanding of history to participate with God in His overall purpose of restoring all people groups/languages/cultures/nations from their fallen state using the language and culture they understand best.

Language and Literature

In the beginning, God spoke, and the heavens and the earth came into being. The three persons of the Trinity have spoken to each other eternally. When God created man in His own image, He gave him the gift of language. When God created man, man was united by the use of one universal language.

Language also became the foundational platform upon which God placed His eternal plan for expressing His goodness to the world. God's plan that through man's sinful desire to exist apart from the goodness of God, and man's rebellion towards God as evidenced in the building a monument to their own achievements, (The Tower of Babel,) God would use separation as the means by which to express his goodness to mankind. God therefore separated man through the creation of many language groups, so that language was no longer a unifying aspect of culture. Language became the major divider of people groups and the specific cultural identifier for each nation identified early in the Bible.

In their perceived unity at the Tower of Babel, separated from God, using their one language, God scattered man abroad over the face of the whole earth, each speaking a language unknown to other people groups or nations. From that one language arose many families/nations of languages. And from those families of languages many branches of dialects also arose, so that, soon, there was communication confusion among all the human families/nations of the world.

So, all languages of the world originated with God, and as such, all are an integral part of His eternal plan to restore all people groups/languages/cultures/nations from their fallen state through the communication of the gospel message in the language and culture each people group/nation understands best.

In terms of Christian education, man in our misuse of God's gift of language, seek our own fame and attention. To discern the proper use of language, we need to understand the eternal plan



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of God to restore all people groups/languages/cultures/nations from their fallen state using the language and culture each nation understands best.

In order to do this in our own language, we need to see and understand the genius and incredible ingenuity of God in designing our mother-tongue. Grammar, syntax and vocabulary are intricately tied to God's creative genius. Becoming proficient in understanding the intricacies of our own language is the first step in recognizing the greatness of God in designing and implementing the grammar, syntax and vocabulary of every other language in the world.

Each aspect of every language of the world is intricately tied to God's creative genius and the recognition that He is the Intelligent Designer of all languages. The myriad varieties of grammatical structures throughout the languages of the world is a testament to the mastermind of God and His eternal plan for our culture and language as well as for every other culture and language of the world.

In our culture in America, reading and writing are foundational skills each child learns to successfully navigate through life. Without reading, we cannot understand the Bible for ourselves. These skills are also basic to learning all other subjects in the light of God's Word.

Students must be taught to read, write, speak, study, and think in terms of the Word of God that makes language and life meaningful. They must develop the linguistic abilities that God has given them to glorify Himself. The teaching of phonics, therefore, is very important. Language skills are not neutral, but must be oriented toward reading, writing, and speaking the truth in love in the overall purpose of restoring all people groups/languages/cultures/nations from their fallen state using the language and culture they understand best.

Because language is thought expressed, and thoughts are never neutral, all literature has a spiritual point of view. When reading any kind of literature, the question should therefore be asked: Is the author proposing a Biblical worldview or a non-Biblical worldview? If, from a non-Biblical worldview, then from what point of view is he/she writing? The question to be asked is, "How does the author's message compare with what the Bible teaches?" Students must learn to read and evaluate all human literature from the perspective of Scriptural truth. Thus, critical thinking is paramount, and teaching students to read and think critically is the goal.

While ACS desires to teach students to approach all literature from a biblical perspective, the study of all books must be subject to the greatest book—the Bible. After learning to read the Bible critically, the student will be equipped to critically judge the words of human authors by the Word of truth. The student should learn to prize not only great classics, but distinguish Christian classics from the classics of unbelief. The great classics of the Christian heritage will inspire and challenge both teacher and student to follow Christ more completely.

Consequently, as a tool for studying God's creative handiwork, learning language and literature from a biblical perspective helps discover God's creation with its laws and patterns, and should naturally lead to a sense of awe and amazement of God as we contemplate wonders of His



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creation. This sense of awe should motivate the student to use their biblical understanding of language and history to participate with God in His overall purpose of restoring all people groups/languages/cultures/nations from their fallen state using the language and culture they understand best.

Mathematics

As a Trinity, God is a multiple. Because God exists in three persons, He is the basis for unity and differentiation in mathematics. The Bible teaches us that the Creator is a God of order. As we study the created universe, we are impressed with its mathematical order as a significant indicator of an Intelligent Designer. Creation is governed by mathematical laws which reflect the character of the One who made it all. Many of the laws of creation are described in terms of mathematics. When presented with the marvelous precision discovered in nature and physics, the student should be led to marvel at God's mathematical ingenuity. Mathematical principles follow the character of God: formulas and equations never vary. They always exhibit flawless consistency.

It is impossible for us to understand creation without God's gift of mathematics, for we would not have the means of measuring His world. Mathematics is a tool to help men rule over the earth as commanded by God. All callings in life demand planning, calculating, and evaluating in order to carry out God-given responsibilities. Mathematics plays an important role, whether it be in business, medicine, engineering, art, science, etc. The Christian student should thus master this wonderful gift to advance Christ's kingdom on earth.

Consequently, as a tool for studying God's creative handiwork, learning mathematics from a biblical perspective helps discover God's creation with its laws and patterns, and should naturally lead to a sense of awe and amazement of God as we contemplate wonders of His creation. This sense of awe should motivate the student to use their biblical understanding of mathematics to participate with God in His overall purpose of restoring all people groups/languages/cultures/nations from their fallen state using the language and culture they understand best.

Science

Science is the study of God's creation from the perspective of an ingenious Intelligent Designer. The facts of creation are reflected on the pages of Scripture. By studying science from the perspective of an ingenious Intelligent Designer, the student learns to see God's awesome power, the beauty of His handiwork and the imaginative and intricate designs reflected in the myriad of features of every creature. Because God created out of the immeasurable resources of His infinite wisdom, man is called to understand and subdue every aspect of His creation as a means of reveling God's infinitely creative works, so that man is brought to a sense of awe and wonder at God's greatness.

The study of Science is a God-ordained pursuit. In the garden of Eden, God assigned man his task of "ruling over the animals and plants and keeping the earth." Under God's authority, he is to cultivate, care for, and develop each aspect of the world in order to make God famous. Adam



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pursued scientific education when he learned to cultivate the soil, plant and dress the trees and vegetation, study the animals, and give each a special name that described them.

In order to “rule over the earth” as a means of reveling God’s infinitely creative works, so that man is brought to a sense of awe and wonder at God’s greatness, the student must acquire an organized and systematic scientific knowledge of the world. By studying both God’s physical laws and His creatures, students will learn and grow in their knowledge and appreciation of each new discovery about God’s world. As a result, students should acknowledge that God is the One who made it all, and learn to subdue and care for creation in a way that makes God famous. To do this, the study of science must be subject to the Word of God. Creation must never be seen as something independent of its Creator, about which men can study without reference to Him.

Consequently, as a tool for studying God’s creative handiwork, learning science from a biblical perspective helps discover God’s creation with its laws and patterns, and should naturally lead to a sense of awe and amazement of God as we contemplate wonders of His creation. This sense of awe should motivate the student to use their biblical understanding of science to participate with God in His overall purpose of restoring all people groups/languages/cultures/nations from their fallen state using the language and culture they understand best.

Society

Biblical sociology (social studies) begins with God, who exists in an eternal relationship between the persons of the Trinity. Because the Bible stresses God’s unity and plurality as equally ultimate, we understand that the human individual or the corporate society are not placed one above the other.

Therefore, the person is not more important than the others.

Thus, a close personal relationship with the Creator of the universe and a clear understanding of His design for human relationships is the only solution to the problems of humanism in its careening between individualism and collectivism.

In His infinite wisdom, God instituted the fundamental social relationship—the family—at creation. From this basic institution, all other social orders have developed according to His providence. He ordained the state, the church, and the family. Each social sphere is directly responsible to God, and each has privileges that must function within the sphere of authority given to it by Him. These privileges and responsibilities have been clearly marked out in His Word.

The Bible provides social structures necessary for successful communal living. For example, the social structures of the Old Testament covenant community of Israel demonstrate God’s purpose for each, in contrast to surrounding societies. A biblical presentation of the social



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order is needed to address effectively the current corruption of society. Biblical instruction and principles provide the tools for analyzing the various social structures of different nations and peoples.

Having analyzed God's original order and the perversion of that order by sinful man, the student should be led to see God's provision for the original design for society. What sin has distorted in the social order established by God, God will one day restore by His grace.

Students should be instructed that salvation is both in the present and the future and that each individual is accountable to God to live in harmony with God's social structure in today's society until Jesus returns to reestablish His original design.

Jesus is the only one who can restore the relationship between God and man and as a result, the social relationships between men, women, children, races, and nations can be put on a path of restoration in the here and now.

The Christian family and the Christian community—the church—should be presented as the alternate society striving to establish for the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth in the midst of chaos.

Consequently, as a tool for understanding God's creative handiwork, understanding Biblical social norms should naturally lead students to a sense of awe and amazement of God as we contemplate the wonders of His creation. This sense of awe should motivate the student to use their biblical understanding of society to participate with God in His overall purpose of restoring all people groups/languages/cultures/nations from their fallen state using the language and culture they understand best.