



# Beacon Media

Supporting Christian schooling worldwide

**What is the difference?**

# What is the mark of a school that honours God?

- Is education neutral?
- Are our church-based schools just the same as other schools, but with the addition of Bible teaching?

***Proverbs 22:6***

***Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is older he will not depart from it.***

# The School that honours God...

- serves Christian families
- is a place where students can grow in godly character
- strengthens students in the Christian faith
- helps students to achieve academic excellence.

# All children belong to God

- As CREATOR, God desires children to be educated in His ways.
- As REDEEMER, God wants children to hear the salvation message.
- As PROTECTOR, God requires spiritual protection of children.

***Matthew 19:14 Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.***

***Matthew 18: 2-6 Jesus called a child, made him stand in front of them, and said, “I assure you that unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven. The greatest in the kingdom of heaven is the one who humbles himself and becomes like a child. And whoever welcomes in my name one such child, welcomes me. But if anyone should cause one of these little ones to lose his faith in me, it would be better for that person to have a large millstone tied around his neck and be drowned in the deep sea.***

***If we accept that the child truly belongs to God, we must also accept that God alone has the authority to determine the nature of the child's education.***



- Does this truth have any place in the government education systems of the world?
- Do government schools give God a place?
- Do they accept God as being in charge?
- What are the difficulties for Christian teachers (and families) in a system that does not acknowledge God?

# Children are a gift from God (Psalm 127:3)

- Children are “on loan” from God for the first 18 years or so of their life.
- Parents have been given the task of raising their children.
- Christian parents and teachers are partners in a child’s education





# What is the role of a Christian teacher?

- One who is equipped
- One who imparts truth
- A servant
- An example
- One who shows grace and love

- One who draws out
- One who affirms, encourages and inspires
- One who recognizes God's hand in the training of students
- One who shows wisdom

*The wisdom from above is pure, peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering and without hypocrisy, (James 3:17)*

# How is the Christian classroom different?

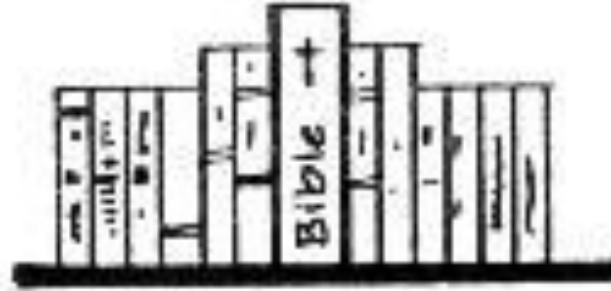
- The students benefit from being nurtured by a Christian teacher.
- But there is another important reason...

# God is included in *all* parts of education

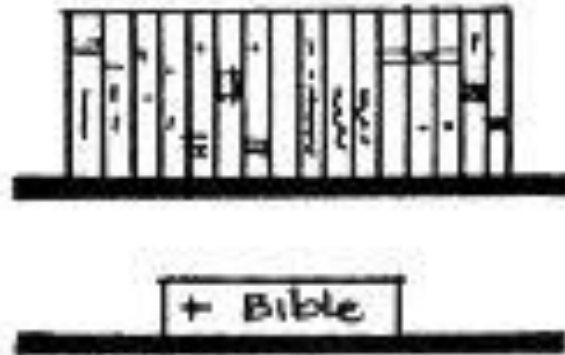
In God-centred education

- Christian teaching *is not* confined to a separate compartment called “Biblical studies”, “Scripture class” or “chapel”.
- God *is not* excluded from mathematics, science, and other subjects. Rather, God is placed at the centre of all education.

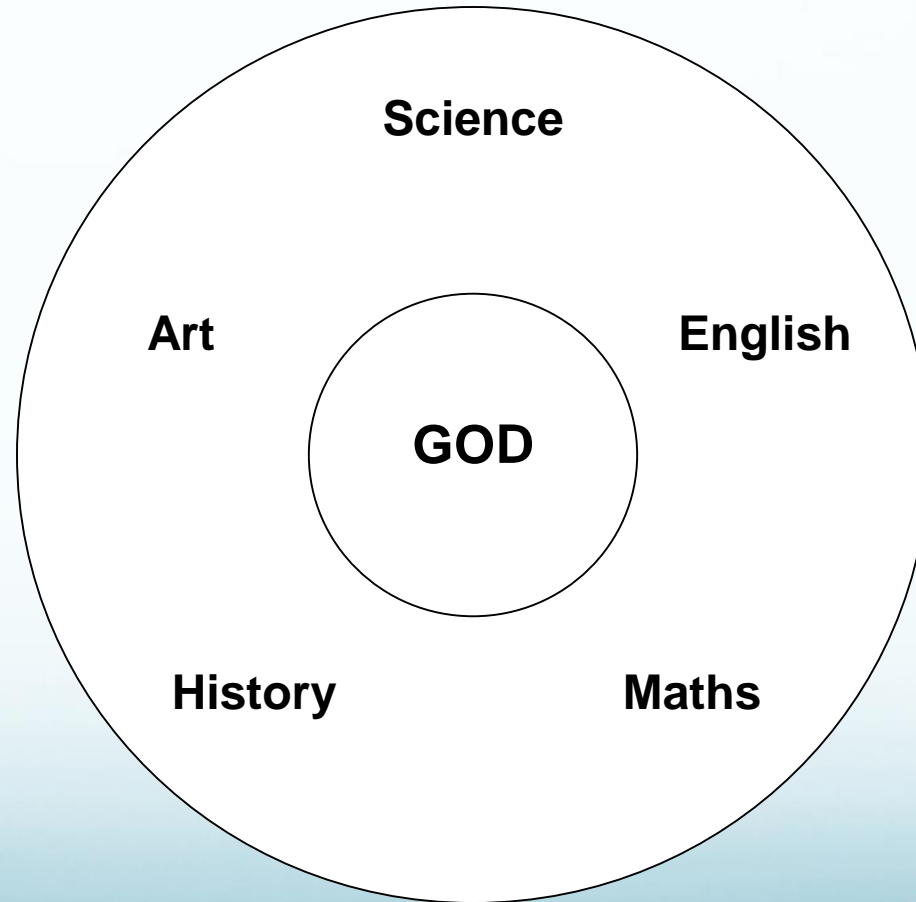
God and the Bible should be integrated with all education



...not separated from education



# Hebrew education



The foundation for Christian education

- Based on the scriptures
- God and His word were central to life.
- God was not separate from education.
- The whole of Creation, (man included), was regarded as being dependent upon God the Creator.
- God was regarded as the measure of all things.



- God's commands were central to everything they did.
- Each person was seen as precious in God's sight.
- It taught responsibility to be good stewards of all resources.
- It involved family and community.

***Deuteronomy 6:5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength.***

# Deuteronomy 11:13-24

If you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today - to love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul - then I will send rain on your land in its season...

Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the Lord swore to give your forefathers.

# What did the Hebrews teach?

- History and the laws of the nation, the Ten Commandments
- Festivals and days of remembrance
- Health rules and dietary laws
- Literacy using the Scriptures
- Mathematics
- Listening

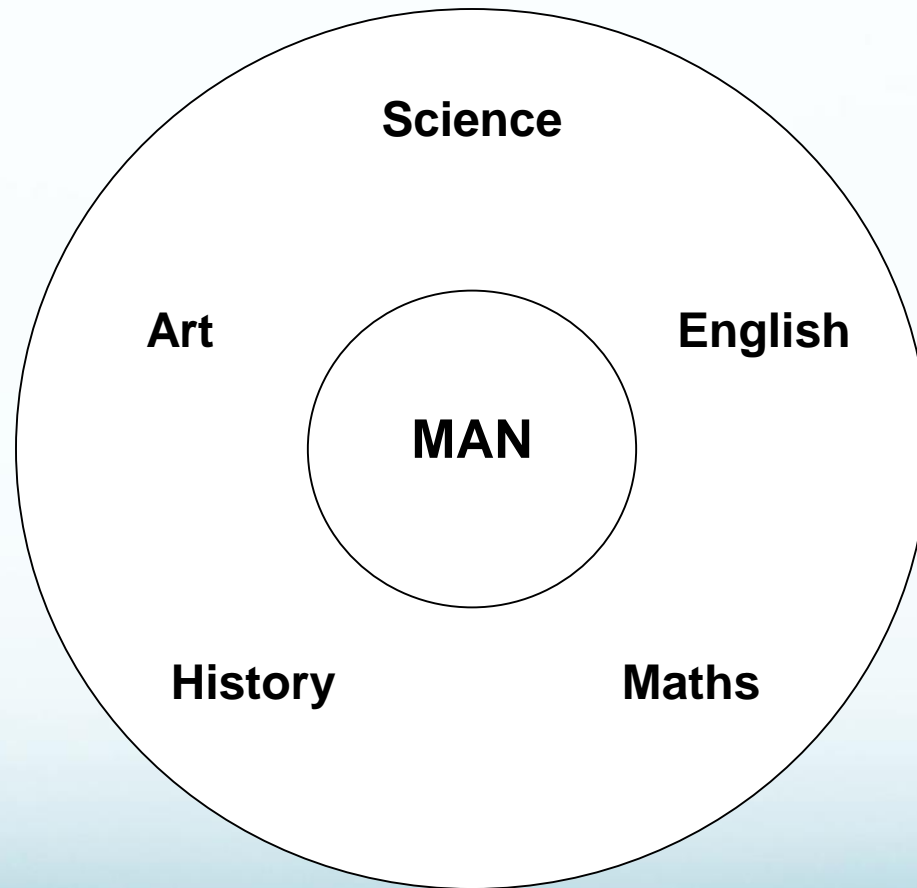
- Prayer
- Music
- Crafts
- Discernment of good and evil
- The law of love

- Wisdom and the fear of the Lord
- The ways of God
- Discipline
- To do God's will
- To learn from the Creation
- To look for a Saviour to come

# Hebrew education in New Testament times

- Jesus was educated in the Hebrew way.
- Jesus added to the Hebrew foundation.
- He gave us the example of the greatest teacher.
- He told us to go into the world and make disciples of all nations.

# Greek education



The foundation for the modern western education system

- The system on which modern Western education is founded
- Education was separated into compartments.
- God was not part of education.
- Man's ideas were all that mattered.
- Pride



- Focused on the perfection of the human body
- Worship of false gods, ('self' was one of them)
- Education w



“All for the glory of man.”

# Man was the measure of all things

2 Corinthians 10:12 (*Good News Bible*)

We would not dare to classify ourselves or compare ourselves with those who rate themselves so highly. How stupid they are! They make up their own standards to measure themselves by, and they judge themselves by their own standards.

# Humanism

- Education without God is called *Humanism*
- Humanism is man-centred education
- Jesus came to pay the penalty for ignoring the Creator of the universe and worshipping ourselves instead.

***"There are only two religions: either God is God, or man is god." (Frank Peretti)***

# Humanist philosophy:

- "If God didn't make me, I don't owe Him anything."
- "My duty is to man instead of to God."
- "If God doesn't exist, then there are no rules."
- "Man is in control, not God."

# Some definitions from the American Society of Humanism

- Motto: “Good without God”
- Humanism is: A joyous alternative to religions that believe in a supernatural god and life in a hereafter.
- Humanism's focus then, is on using human efforts to meet human needs and wants in this world.

# What does God say about serving self?

Philippians 2:3-7 (*Good News Bible*)

Don't do anything from selfish ambition, but be humble towards one another, always considering others better than yourselves. Look out for one another's interests, not just your own. Have the attitude of Christ Jesus...He took on the nature of a servant.

# God sets the standard, not man

For Christians, our lives are not dedicated to looking after ourselves, but others.



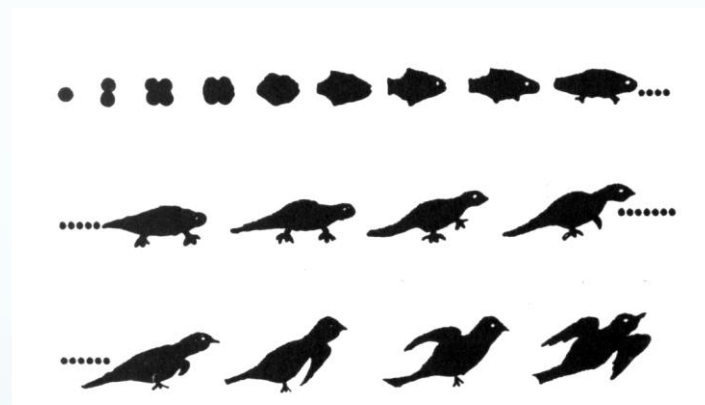
# What is God-centred education?

- the teaching of good morals?
- providing a good Christian environment?





- exposing evolutionary thinking?
- a Bible study period each day or each week?



These are important but...

# We can do more than this!

- A school that honours God can lead students to know God personally through an understanding of
  - His character
  - His nature
  - His word

## God-centred curriculum *does not* mean

- treating Bible study and academic knowledge as separate.
- tacking on a passage of scripture to the end of the lesson

It should **not** be like a pizza where all the ingredients are separate.



# God-centred education *does* mean

- Placing God and His word at the centre of **all** education.
- Integrating God's teaching into subject areas.

This approach is like a well-blended milkshake!



# Ask God for guidance

- Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.
- Pray that God will give you His mind in what you are going to teach.
- Ask God for a revelation on what He is saying about the topic or subject matter...

# What is God-centred curriculum?

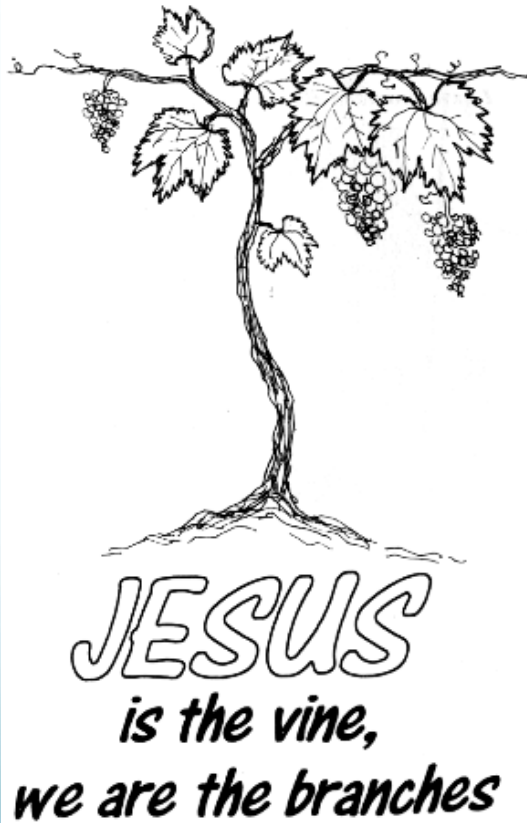
- A God-centred curriculum is where God and the Bible are taught within subject areas, (Hebrew).
- It is where we show the students what God is like – His character and nature.

A God-centred curriculum is *not*...

- Separate Bible curriculum, (Greek)
- A focus on good works
- Tacking Bible verses on to the lesson

## John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in Him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

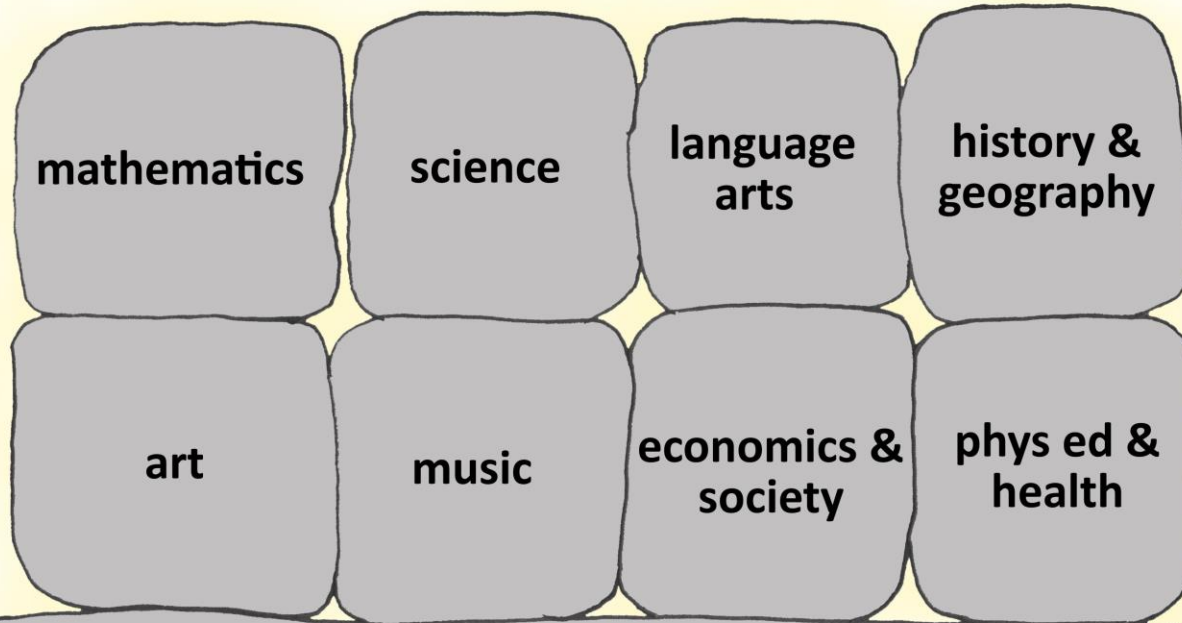




Education must be thoroughly rooted and grounded in God, not separated from Him.

# Build your curriculum on the rock

*Godly character*



*Godly character*

The true Christian classroom places Jesus at the centre of all knowledge, all learning and all relationships.



# Discussion

- How is this approach to education different from your experience of school?
- What are the greatest hindrances to placing God at the centre of education in the church-based schools in Fiji?
- What is a ‘nominal Christian’?
- Why do you think schools that separate God into the box called ‘Scripture class’ are in danger of producing nominal Christians?