

There are different approaches to Christian education.

Subjects could be taught as they are in state schools, but prayers and Bible studies occur at various times during the week. There is a sacred part of the school program and a secular part.

A better way is to see education as an unfolding of:

God's character

God's nature

God's purposes

God's creation

This approach does not accept the occasional or even periodic bringing of God into the program. Each and every area of learning is a revelation of Christ, each from its own perspective.

We are not advocating that that Bible be the entire curriculum. God is the curriculum...God's character, purposes and creation. The scope of study is huge. The Bible is God's greatest tool for making Himself known to people, but other tools also exist. All of Creation was formed by His word and has the imprint of the Creator on it. (Romans 1:20).

Science is the study of God's handiwork. Mathematics is a language that precisely describes this work. All history is God's story for He has always been present in earth's events. We were created in God's image, (Genesis 1:26), and through the born again experience are recreated in Christ. God expresses Himself through our art, language and music.

Perhaps you can begin to see how all areas of learning are included. The starting point, sustaining factor, and conclusion of all parts of the school program is God. The starting point is not 'science' or 'spelling' for example. Nor is God a separate or ad hoc part of the program. God is not injected into parts of the program to make Him 'relevant'.

"But a curriculum based on God alone seems impossible. How can this be done?" you may ask.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, a program can be designed, based upon study units built around a particular theme. The theme concerns a particular aspect of God's character - purposes - creation. All this represents *a study of God and interaction with God*.

Study units are a product of the teacher's personal revelation and experience of God and their openness to the direction of the Holy Spirit. In construction of these units, three principles are involved:

First: comes the teacher's awareness of what God wants revealed about Himself. eg. God is love; God is just etc.

Second: comes the decision concerning what areas of the social and physical creation best teach this, and which Bible passages are appropriate.

Third: comes the selection of the teaching and evaluation techniques to be used.

An example:

First: God is a God of order.

Second: Laws regulating pendulums

social laws: ten commandments

number series; plane geometry

rules of team games eg. basketball

rules or lack of rules in art and music

conventions in grammar

Third: children will experimentally discover laws of pendulums

Reading the history of the ten commandment shows us:

What happened when the people of Israel broke the laws?

What happens when members of my family obey the ten commandments?

This form of Christian education is very powerful. It does not contrive to make God relevant. It simply focuses the students' eyes upon God.