



EDEN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Philosophy of Education

The educational philosophy of Eden Christian Academy is based on a Christ-centered view of truth and man, as revealed in the Bible. Man is a product of the creative power of God. Therefore, God is at the center of the Christian view of life.

The following outline of the steps to the development of the educational philosophy of Eden Christian Academy naturally begins with God.

Step 1: God stands at the center of the Christian's view of the world.

We believe that God is an eternal, personal being of absolute knowledge, power and goodness. He is the ultimate reality, the source of all reality and truth. He exists in three persons: God, the Father; God, the Son; and God, the Holy Spirit. (All truth is ascribed to the Trinity. God, the Father is the source of truth; God, the Son is the manifestation of truth; and God, the Spirit is the interpreter of truth.)

Step 2: God reveals Himself to mankind.

1. The highest level of self-revelation was through His Son Jesus.
2. Self-revelation also comes through the Bible, God's Word, written by men inspired by the Holy Spirit.
3. God's revelation also comes through nature. Non-rational creation (all levels below man) has as its purpose to reveal the attributes of God. Rational creation (man) has as its purpose to glorify God and to do His will.
4. The Holy Spirit, present in each Christian, reveals God and guides each believer into all truth.

Step 3: A Christian Philosophy of Life.

Since God created and sustains all things through His Son Jesus Christ, the universe and all life is related to God with the purpose of revealing and glorifying Him. This is particularly true of man who was made in God's image, different from all other creation, with the unique capacity to know and respond to God personally and voluntarily. Because man is a sinner by nature, he cannot, in this condition, know or honor God in his life. He can do this only by being born again through receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and thus be enabled to do God's will.

Step 4: A Christian Philosophy of Education.

A Christian philosophy of education is seen as a means used by the Holy Spirit to bring the student into fellowship with God, to develop a Christian mind in Him, to help the student be sensitive to direct revelation by the Spirit of God to his spirit, and to train him in Godly living so that he will be able to fulfill God's total purpose for his life, personally and vocationally.

1. All aspects of the educative process - objectives, content methods, principles, and administration - are derived from the fact that God is central in the universe and the Source of all truth.
2. The mandate for Christian education comes from God's command that children are to be taught to love God and give Him pre-eminence in their lives and that parents are responsible for the total education and training of their children. The Christian school, along with the parents, is a partner in giving this education.

Statement of faith

- We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only inspired, the only infallible and inerrant authoritative Word of God.
- We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
- We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful men, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary.
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life.
- We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost - those who are saved unto the resurrection of life and those who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
- We believe that heaven and hell are definite places.
- We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps 139.)

- We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female in conformity with their biological sex. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.) We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Eden Christian Academy as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Eden Christian Academy members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Eden Christian Academy in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.) We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.) We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Eden Christian Academy.

** Our Statement of Doctrine is not exhaustive of all our beliefs. The Bible, as the inspired and infallible Word of God, speaks with absolute authority regarding the proper conduct of mankind and is the unchanging foundation for all belief and behavior. The Eden Christian Academy Board of Directors holds final interpretive authority on biblical meaning and application with regard to faith, doctrine, policy, practice, and discipline.*