


A Biblical Foundation  
for Adventist Education

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We believe...

**The Bible is  
the Word of God**



- Inspired
- Trustworthy
- Authoritative

Christian Education

**A core ingredient  
in fulfilling MISSION**

- Prolific writings on education by Ellen G. White
- The extent of Adventist education
  - 7,806 schools, colleges, and universities
  - 87,240 teachers
  - 1,680,153 students

**Centrality  
of Scripture**

**+**

**Significance  
of Education**

**Adventist  
Education**

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**Substantial  
Biblical Support**



1. The Image of God

In the beginning... Genesis 1:26-27


**Likeness  
to God**

**Imago  
Dei**




Qualities of Human Nature  
Revealing Characteristics of God

- Capacity to love  
John 3:16-17; 1 John 4:16
- Ability to relate and communicate  
Genesis 1:3, 26-29; 2:18, 23; 3:8; John 1:1
- Aptitude to administrate  
Genesis 1:28; 2:15
- Facility for creativity, decision-making, and rational thought  
Genesis 2:16-17, 19-20; Joshua 24:15; Isaiah 1:18



Whenever we...



- Make a friend
- Hug a child
- Name a pet
- Paint a portrait
- Send a text message

**We proclaim that we are  
made in God's likeness.**


Foremost Feature

➤ **Spiritual and Moral Nature**

Genesis 9:6; John 4:24

One can...

- Communicate
- Develop relationships
- Exert leadership
- Evidence creativity



But unless these are **guided by moral values**, derived from the God's character, the result will not be God-like

Dominion: Ability to Rule Genesis 1:26-28

Manner of Our Rule

**SELF-SERVING**      **SELFLESS SERVICE**


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Fact of Our Rule


Our God-Given Abilities

- **NOT ENDS** in themselves
- Provide us with **THE CAPACITY**

- To make **MORAL DECISIONS**
- To live **MORAL LIVES**



Consequently...



It is in the **SPIRITUAL AND MORAL REALM**, in **holiness**, where the image of God is most clearly revealed

Leviticus 19:2; 20:26; Isaiah 43:15; Ephesians 4:24; 1 Peter 1:16

Implications

1. Students are God's creation and possess inherent value.
2. As teachers, we are to express in our lives the attributes of God.
3. The educational process must center on character formation, based on moral values derived from God's character.

2. Redemption and Restoration

- He has **rescued** us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have **redemption**, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13
- He **restores** my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness. Psalm 23:3


?

If human beings are created in the image of God, **WHY** are redemption and restoration necessary?

Closely Linked with Moral Nature

**Volition**


- The freedom of choice
- The ability to choose good or evil, godliness or ungodliness



Numbers 17:5; Deuteronomy 12:11; 30:19; Joshua 24:15; 1 Chronicles 21:10; Proverbs 1:29; 3:31; Isaiah 7:15-16; 56:4; 65:12


### Tragically...

- The first human beings **distrusted** the Creator and **chose** to reject a relationship with God



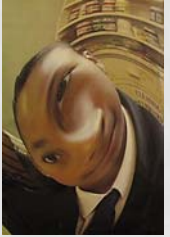
### As a result...

- Human beings
  - Became conformed to sin Romans 12:2
  - Have fallen "short of the glory of God" Romans 3:23; 5:12
- Effects of sin are evidenced in all areas of our lives Isalah 64:6; Matthew 7:18; Romans 3:10




### As a result...

- We began to lose the original form, the likeness to our Creator
- The image of God was distorted and deformed



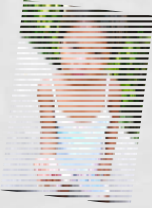
### The Good News!

- While the image of God has been profoundly damaged, fragments of the likeness to God remain in our lives. Romans 2:14-15; James 3:9



### Conscience

- A remnant of the original state
- When we...
  - Recoil from evil
  - Praise ethical behavior
  - Seek to remedy inequities
- We confirm that
  - We still have the potential for morality
  - The likeness to God can be restored in our lives




### The Best News!

**Restoration  
IS  
Possible**


### How does the restoration take place?

- Paul asserts that by **looking to Jesus**, by contemplating His life and teachings, we **become changed into His likeness** (2 Corinthians 3:18)
- By beholding Jesus, we are **re-formed, re-created** into the image of God



### Re-formation

- Brings about a dramatic change
- A **metamorphosis** (Romans 12:2)
  - Old things are passed away
  - **All things are become new**



### Implications

1. Students must personally experience redemption and restoration.
2. Teachers should safeguard student volition, while nurturing decisions that reflect God's plan for our lives.
3. The foremost purpose of education is to lift up Jesus, that students may see who God truly is and be transformed into His likeness.

3. Comprehensive Spiritual Perspective



Problem: Dualistic Thinking

Gnostics: Mind vs. Matter


Faith/Learning

Mercy/Justice

Love/Authority


Theory/Practice

Student/Subject




1 Corinthians 10:31

Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**



Colossians 3:17

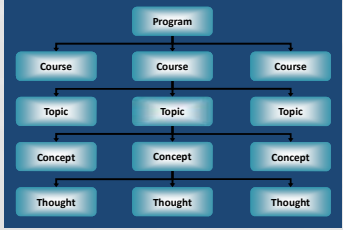
Whatever you do in word or in deed, **do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.**



2 Corinthians 10:5

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God; **And bringing into captivity every thought** to the obedience of Christ.

“Every Thought Captive...”




Implications

1. The biblical worldview precludes a spiritual/secular dichotomy. It brings a unified approach to life and learning.
2. A spiritual focus is to frame every academic program and activity.
3. As Christian teachers, we are to see our students as Jesus sees them, and teach our courses as He would teach them.


4. Unity of Faith, Learning, and Life

**In Scripture, faith, learning, and life are closely connected.**




Connected

- “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”  
Romans 10:17
- “Faith without works is dead.”  
James 2:17



**Key Concept: Faith**


“When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” Luke 18:8



- **In God:** Both theological and relational
- **In Divine Revelation:** God’s truth, His character, and His plan
- **In persons:** God-given potential of others/self

**Key Concept: Learning**


“Come unto me and learn of me.” Matthew 11:28-29



- **To think Christianly:** A change in MIND
- **To live by faith:** A change of LIFE

**Key Concept: Life**


“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” John 10:10



- **PRODUCTIVE**
- **MEANINGFUL**
- **ETERNAL**

**What is this UNITY of faith, learning, and life?**

- It is when Christian beliefs and values provide the **basis** for the academic endeavor
  - Which seeks, in turn, to relate Christianity to the **full range** of human existence and culture
- More than a mingling
  - It is when Faith is **FOUNDATIONAL** to Learning and to Life



**Implications**

1. Students are to personally experience faith, developed through a relationship with God, based upon His Word.
2. Teachers are to seek to bring about in their students both a change in mind, and a change of life.
3. The overarching goal of the academic program is to nurture faith through the experience of learning.

**Cornerstones** 1



**Cornerstones** 2

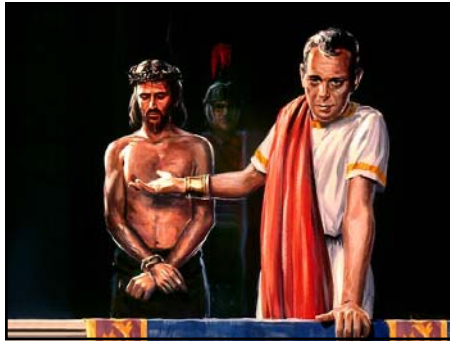


**Cornerstones** 3



**Cornerstones** 4





### A Personal Choice

Choose you this day whom you will serve—whether the gods of **traditional education** that your mentors served, or the gods of **this secular age** in which you now live...

(adapted from Joshua 24:15)

### A Personal Commitment

But as for me and my classroom, as for me and my school...

**We will serve the Lord!**

