

## Suggestions for (Re)Integrating Faith and Learning Dr. Will Honeycutt

### A response of biblical faith in learning means:

- Seeing the prominence of God in all things - God as priority – “in the beginning, GOD” (Gen. 1:1 and Matt. 6:33 are no small matter)
- Taking thinking seriously and committing to thinking well (Matt. 22:37, 2 Cor. 10:5 – “all your mind,” “every thought captive”)
- Understanding reason itself as an act of faith (reason requires the supernatural to explain it – Lewis, *Mere Christianity, Miracles*).
- Realizing that learning without faith leads to a very limited, truncated understanding of reality – Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*
- Seeking knowledge and truth as a means to love/glorify God and to serve our fellowman as God’s image bearers (Matt. 22:37-40).
- Tracing, at every opportunity, our disciplines back to their roots in biblical/Christian thought and action (See Alvin Schmidt’s *Under the Influence: How Christianity Transformed Civilization*. Zondervan, 2001).
- Asking regularly how the following biblical presuppositions bear on our disciplines
  - Our being a dependent (limited) creature?
  - Our being created in God’s image (value, worth, dignity, love for beauty, storytelling and creativity)?
  - Our being moral agents with a duty to love and serve God and neighbor; to live in community with friend and foe?
  - Our being corrupted by the fall (tendency toward selfishness, egoism, utilitarian calculus, self-promotion, avarice, greed)?
  - Our being mortal creatures who will die and face judgment?
- Looking for opportunities to illustrate and illuminate our discipline in light of God’s attributes (His creativity, intelligence, wisdom, communication, moral order, justice, wrath, love, redemption, etc.)
- Making faith (in a God of creative order and beauty) the impetus and methodology for our study, research and work (E.g. Johannes Kepler, George Washington Carver).
- Identifying biblical passages and principles relevant to and illustrative of various points within our discipline (This requires habitual and full reading of Scripture through the eyes of our disciplines)
- Tying the disciplines together in the classroom thus demonstrating their coherence, especially at a Christian UNiversity.
- Acknowledging the limits of our own discipline and the interdependence of all the disciplines for life and community.
- Emphasizing not just faith and learning but also faith and living. Learning is not just for making a living, but for knowing how we *ought* to live; morally answerable to God as humans and also each other as professionals in our disciplines.
- Emphasizing vocation and sacred calling to serve God and His image as His followers and through our disciplines.