



The Authentic Christian Educator

Biblical Worldview Integration Principles and Practices

“Rooted in Christ and Flourishing in Season”

Achieving a Christ-centered culture requires that every part of the school be grounded in, guided by, interconnected through, and fundamentally transformed by Christ. This document outlines twelve principles for the authentic Christian educator, grouped into five areas called “marks,” to help all educators understand the logical flow.

Why “Authentic Christian Educator”? Every believer is commanded to make disciples. Every believer is called to this task until people everywhere understand and recognize that Jesus Christ is the only Savior and that He has been given all authority over every part of creation.

ACSI is tasked, through our mission and vision, with strengthening Christian schools and equipping Christian educators to inspire students to become devoted followers of Jesus Christ. For any school to do this effectively, every staff member must believe and practice what we hope others will receive. We must be **Authentic!**

What is the aim of Christian education?

Aim

The Aim of the Authentic Christian Educator is that all individuals they encounter would know, love, and serve Jesus Christ.

Mark 8:36; Col 1:15-20; John 17:17;
Rom 12:2; Phil 2:5-8; 2 Tim 3:16-17;
Matt 22:37-40; Matt 28:16-20;
Gal 5:22-23; Psalm 19:1-4;
Heb 5:12-14; Acts 17:11;
2 Cor 5:18-20; John 14:16-17;
Psalm 86:9

Principle #1: Students will:

- **Confess** Jesus Christ as Savior
- **Trust** Him as Lord over every part of their lives
- **Obey** all of His commands
- **Allow** the Holy Spirit to shape them in the image of Christ by:
 - **Renewing** their minds in God’s word
 - **Demonstrating** love for God and love for neighbors
 - **Making** disciples
- **Grow** in wisdom and stature by:
 - **Using** critical thinking skills
 - **Applying** knowledge of God’s word
 - **Engaging** contemporary problems and opportunities as ambassadors of Christ
- **Act** under the power of the Holy Spirit and for God’s glory in all things

How does a Christian education facilitate Spiritual Formation?

Proclaim

The Authentic Christian Educator proclaims Jesus Christ as the only means of salvation and Lord of the universe and that His design is the only means for humans to flourish.

John 14:16-17, 26; Matt 28:16-20;
Phil 2:5-8; Gen 1:1; Eph 4:11-13;
Deut 6:6-9; 2 Tim 2:2; Col 2:8;
Prov 1:7; Gal 5:22-23; 2 Tim 3:16-17;
Eph 2:10; 2 Cor 5:18-20; Acts 1:8

Principle #2: Spiritual Formation is the Holy Spirit’s ongoing work of shaping individuals in the image of Christ for the glory of God and for the sake of others.

Principle #3: The Christian home, assisted by the Christian Church and supported by the Christian school, collectively participates in the Holy Spirit’s work of spiritual formation.

Principle #4: God calls Christian educators, empowered by the Spirit, to participate in the work of restoration by:

- **Abiding** in His Word
- **Teaching** with excellence
- **Making** disciples
- **Modeling** the example of Christ

How does the Christian educator do this?

Prepare <i>The Authentic Christian Educator prepares with excellence within their sphere of influence.</i> 2 Tim 2:15; 2 Tim 3:16-17; Psalm 19:1-4; Luke 2:52; Prov 1:7; Acts 17:22-23; Rom 12:13; Rom 12:2; 1 Peter 3:15; Col 1:28-29; Prov 22:29; Eph 2:10; Col 3:23; James 3:1; Psalm 119:105; Col 2:8; Prov 9:10; Prov 18:15; Gen 1:26-27; 1 Thes 5:20-22; Acts 17:11; Luke 6:40; Rom 12:4-8; John 17:20-23; Rom 12:15; Josh 24:15	Principle #5: Christian educators create an environment of biblical hospitality to intentionally lead students to holistically discover God's truth and wisdom in and through their disciplines in developmentally and culturally appropriate ways. (philosophy) Principle #6: Christian educators understand that worldview development is lifelong, and as students grow in their understanding of truth, it naturally creates opportunities to guide them toward Christ. (worldview formation) Principle #7: Christian educators intentionally plan to target and uncover specific biblical truths undergirding subject content, identify conflicting worldviews, and rebuild with biblical truth (what we learn about God, humanity, ourselves, and creation). (biblical literacy) Principle #8: Christian educators pursue excellence in their subject area content (skills, concepts, and dispositions) Principle #9: Christian educators design and use activities and questions that help students, as image-bearers of God, critically and independently analyze information. In the design of activities and questions, they consider: • Applicable biblical truths • Developmental appropriateness • Cultural contexts • Possible alternative worldviews (pedagogy)
Cultivate <i>The Authentic Christian Educator cultivates an environment of biblical hospitality to foster God-honoring relationships with those placed in their care.</i> Rom 12:9-21; 2 Tim 2:15; Prov 22:29; Eccl 10:10; Titus 2:7-8; Phil 1:9-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Eph 4:1-6; Gal 6:2; 1 Thes 5:14; Eph 2:10	Principle #10: Christian educators cultivate an environment of biblical hospitality that is: • Grounded in humility and harmony • Structured, yet warm • Open to respectful discourse on deep questions • Fostering critical thinking • Conducive to nurturing students' gifts (natural and spiritual) • Marked by grace and perseverance Principle #11: Christian educators influence students' cognition, affection, and volition (the whole child), which helps guide students toward their calling and related vocations and to live faithfully within their community.
Live <i>The Authentic Christian Educator lives by example.</i> Phil 2:3-8; Mark 10:45; James 3:1; 1 Cor 11:1; Phil 3:17; 1 Tim 4:12; Titus 2:7; 1 Peter 5:2-3; John 13:12-17	Principle #12: Christian educators live incarnationally (marked by proximity, presence, and sacrificial, self-giving love) among students, parents, coworkers, and the wider community.

