

Philosophy of Religion

Christian education is committed to providing a complete education for God's people. The goal of Christian education is to help children know Jesus Christ as their Savior, to grow in their faith, and to develop their talents to be used in this life to bring glory to God.

Left to his own devices, man will seek to achieve spiritual wisdom and knowledge by means of his own reason and power. The writer of the book of Proverbs reminds us, however, that true knowledge can come only where the fear of the Lord is present. (Proverbs 1:7) Only as the Scripture's two-edged sword condemns him of his sin (Law) and comforts him through the assurance of God's love and forgiveness in Christ (Gospel) can he come to know and believe the truth which alone can make him free.

It is this truth which needs to be at the heart of all we teach our children. Paul says, "From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 3:15) God's Word tells man everything he needs to know about God and the salvation He has prepared for us. It is the means through which the Spirit works. It necessarily is the foundation on which the curriculum of our Christian schools must be built.

This Word has the power to accomplish all that God has willed for us both in terms of saving faith and of a life consistent with that faith. In His same letter to Timothy, Paul

also wrote, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

In the confidence that this is so, the Religion curriculum consists of lessons taught in an organized manner for the purpose of conveying knowledge to the students about the Bible, Catechism, and the Hymnal. Through this knowledge, the students will develop a clearer understanding of the Gospel message. This in turn will lead to spiritual growth with the help of the Holy Spirit.

A major portion of the Religion curriculum and the individual lesson will be application.

The end result of our teaching should find students who are Christian, familiar with the Scriptures, and comfortable with using the Bible, able to tell others about saving faith, and assets to our congregations.

The Religion curriculum makes Scripture the basis for all learning, using the Bible, Catechism, and hymnal as tools

1. To teach God’s way of salvation
2. To protect against error and false teaching
3. To carry out Christian discipline
4. To train in righteous living

We do this fully believing that the Holy Spirit, working through the Word, will equip our students with all they need for a life which reflects the faith that He has given them.