

A Christian Mind

In his *The Christian Mind*, Harry Blamires laments that a Christian mind can scarcely be found - back in 1963! He contended that Christians, while holding to Christian doctrines, have forfeited Christian categories of thought in exchange for the autonomous pluralistic relativism of the secular world. According to Blamires, the Christian Mind is characterized by:

Its Supernatural Orientation

Its Awareness of Evil

Its Conception of Truth

Its Acceptance of Authority

Its Concern for the Person

Its Sacramental Cast



A Christian Mind is a theological, historical, humanist, ethical, truthful, aesthetic and joyful mind. Christian classical education seeks to develop the mind of Christ on the three kingpins of a Christian worldview: reality, knowledge and ethics:

Reality: Reality is experienced and known sacramentally because the universe and our world are created by God and maintained by Him. This is our Father's world. Educators therefore *cultivate* a love for creation in their students, they *realize* the holy character of the matters they study as well as the holiness of study itself and they *give thanks* more often and more consciously as they teach and learn.

Knowledge: Because God is the Author and Knower of all truth, and has spoken intelligibly to man, knowledge is concrete, experienced and engaging. It involves the whole person, not merely the intellect. Knowledge therefore affects what a person loves, desires and wills. Since knowledge corresponds to revealed truth, educators teach the obvious implications of statements such as, "I know..." or "We believe...."

Ethics: God's very Person and character determine the ethics of the universe. The supreme virtue is to love this God of the Bible. Ethics are neither personal nor relative. A Christian mind can love God and neighbor better. Since educators teach students to love the one true and holy God, they learn to distinguish not only between right and wrong but also to choose what is better and care for their neighbor.



Christian classical education thus serves as a major force for renewal in our relativistic, pluralistic and decadent culture. The curriculum to develop a Christian Mind is shaped by Scripture, doctrine and history. It is developed through classical and contemporary literature. It is polished through debate, cross-cultural studies and foreign travel.

Our problem as sinners IS our minds; but God is developing the mind of Christ. Reflecting on these matters, Henry James observed: Minds ought to be finely tuned and richly responsible. †