

BY GRACE

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Title: Maintaining Academic and Spiritual Excellence

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Introduction: _____

“Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king’s palace, and whom they might teach the learning and tongue of the Chaldeans.” (Daniel 1:4)

Putting the name Christ in front of the name school demands excellence in two ways:

1. Spiritual excellence
2. Academic excellence

DEFINITION: *“pattern”*—a form or model proposed for imitation.

1. Keep the _____ at the Center

“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do

according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” (Joshua 1:8)

A. All individuals have a worldview.

Biblical	Humanistic
Relying on God to solve man’s problems.	Trying to solve man’s problems independently of God.
Looks through the lens of the Bible on other subjects.	Looks through the lens of education on the Bible and other subjects.
God is the judge of all things.	Man is the judge of all things.
Absolutes.	No absolutes.

B. Jesus Christ had a biblical worldview.

C. Developing a biblical worldview in our students starts with putting the Bible at the center of all that we do.

2. Keep _____ for the Individual

A. Jesus Christ had compassion on the multitude, but He cared for the individual.

B. Jesus Christ met both physical and spiritual needs.

Spiritual Need	Physical Need	Individual
Spiritual Thirst	Physical Thirst	The Woman at the Well, John 4
Spiritual Healing	Physical Healing	The Woman with an Issue of Blood, Luke 8
Spiritual Answers	Physical Answers	Nicodemus, John 3
Spiritual Healing for a Household	Physical Healing for a Servant	The Centurion, Matthew 8

- C. We must meet both the physical and spiritual needs of our students.

“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Mark 8:36)

Spiritual Need	Physical Need
Salvation	Discipline and Correction
Discipleship	Social Development
Biblical Worldview	Academic Learning
Discerning God’s Will	A Purpose and Career Path

3. Keep _____ Standards and Expectations

QUOTE: “When God wants to make an oak tree, he takes a hundred years. When He wants to make a squash He requires only two months.”—**James Garfield**

- A. Focus on equal opportunity, not equal achievement.

QUOTE: “...the time in education has come when the wholesale bribery system of giving out endless supplies of stickers, candies, and other tangibles has got to come to a halt. Let’s stop the ‘what’s in it for me?’ welfare and bribery system.” - Rosemary Wong

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

“Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not, and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.” (Matthew 13:13)

- B. Focus on progression, not perfection.

“For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little . . .” (Isaiah 28:10)

QUOTE: “We must focus our efforts on growing grass not killing weeds.”—**Paul Chappell**

- C. Focus on stretching, not satisfying.

“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:12-16)

*“O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!”
(Psalm 8:1)*

QUOTE: “The only sure way to fail is to try to please everybody.”
—Abraham Lincoln

D. Practical suggestions for keeping high standards and expectations:

School

Elevate accountability by striving for accreditation.

Have a procedure for every routine problem.

Standardize procedures across the school and from class to class.

Staff

Hire a core of quality teachers.

Require teachers to have a bachelors degree at a minimum.

Encourage and support further education among your staff.

Insist on a process of onboarding and professional development.

Observe in the classroom.

Conduct formal and informal staff evaluations.

Conduct frequent team meetings to provide small chunks of training, guidance, and support.

Students

Use some method of norm-based testing across your student body.

Meet or exceed your state’s standards or requirements.

Implement an attainable, but fairly rigorous behavioral and academic code.

If you have a question for one of the Q&A sessions, please submit it to QA@lancasterbaptist.org.

