Worldview Apologetics: Faith Impacting Culture

Lecture 3:
The Liberal Arts &
Longing for Shalom

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A Liberal Arts University

- **Educare**
  - “dominus illuminatio mea”
  - “the Lord is my light” (Ps. 27.1)

- **The Creator entrusted humanity to explore, enjoy, and engage this world.**

- **A Christian view of education:**
  - illumination, integration, impact

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- **Classical liberal arts:**
  - *teknē* (craft): something done for the sake of some other end (e.g., medicine, shipbuilding)
  - *praxis* (action): done for its own sake (e.g., playing the flute)
  - *aretē* (virtue): the having of a certain disposition for acting (e.g., temperance, prudence, justice, fortitude)

- **Contemporary equivalent:**
  - Technical institute; liberal arts college ...
  - Liberated to flourish/practice *aretē* in the human goods [like playing the flute]
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• Becoming the kind of being God intended us to be: beings made in the image of God (Gen. 1.27) who imitate Christ “who is the image of the invisible God” (Col. 1.15).

Longing for shalom
Why so much talk of impact?
(1) The imago Dei & the cultural mandate; see Gen. 1.27-28

Longing for shalom
(2) The indicative drives the imperative:
• “17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. … 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.
• 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Co. 5).
Longing for shalom

- Westminster Catechism (Longer and Shorter):
  Q. 1. What is the chief and highest end of man?
  A. Man’s chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him forever.

  “... by enjoying Him forever.”

- Inner change precedes and extends into world change.
- Our deeds must originate in our devotion.

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