

Becoming a Teacher of Children: Teaching as Jesus Taught

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Question: How come some teachers are more effective, fruitful, and loved? What makes them THRIVE?

Teacher Identity: Teacher identity is defined as the framework for teachers to construct their own ideas of 'how to be,' 'how to act,' and 'how to understand' their work and their place in society. Teacher identity is formed when individuals define themselves and are viewed by others as teachers.

Trend in Teacher Education

- Shift in teacher training focus
- Teachers are encouraged to become teachers instead of just focusing on learning how to teach.
- This quest calls for a shift of paradigm from “knowing how to” to “being some-one who”
- Contrary to many other jobs, who one is as a teacher and teacher educator matters as much—or even more—as what one knows or what skills one masters
- Teacher’s professional identity also has a positive impact on their teaching affecting their educational philosophy, decision-making, well-being, and effectiveness.



Types of Curriculum

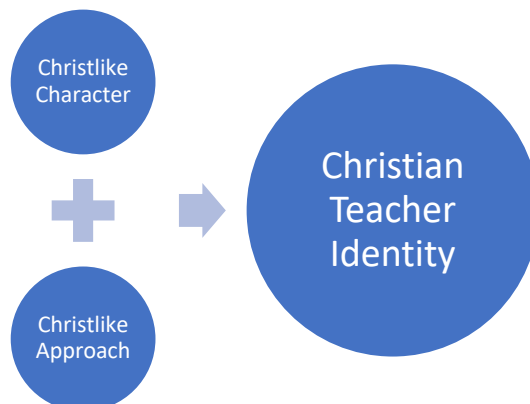
- Explicit/Written Curriculum: What is to be taught
- Null Curriculum: what has been left out either intentionally or unintentionally
- Hidden Curriculum: Unintended curriculum; what students learn from the learning community’s culture and climate; It includes such elements as the use of time, allocation of space, funding for programs and activities, and disciplinary policies and practices.

What we can learn from memories of good teachers

- Actions, indeed, spoke louder than words.
- Learning by watching & walking with
- Evidence of one’s character

We Teach Who We Are (Parker J. Palmer from *The Courage to Teach*)

- “Teaching, like any truly human activity, emerges from one’s inwardness, for better or worse. As I teach, I project the condition of my soul onto my students, my subject, and our way of being together.”
- “Good Teaching cannot be reduced to technique; good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher.”



Christlike Character

- “Christian spiritual formation refers to the **intentional communal process** of growing in our **relationship** with God and becoming **conformed** to Christ through the power of **the Holy Spirit**.” (James Wilhoit, *Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered*)
- If we want our children to be conformed to Christ, we, teachers, should also be going through spiritual formation ourselves, growing in our relationship with God and becoming conformed to Christ.

What the Bible says about Christlike character and integrity of a teacher

- Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:1)
- Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. (Ephesians 5:1)
- Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 2:5)
- Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Tim. 4:16)
- In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned” (Titus 2:7-8)

Christlike Approaches

- Learner-Centered Teaching
- Experience-Based Teaching
- Spiritual Formation as Educational Goal:
“Jesus emphasized ten points in his teaching as ways his followers can grow spiritually. Teachers today should seek to foster these same activities in their learners.” (Roy B. Zuck from *Teaching as Jesus Taught*)
 - Grow by loving the Lord
 - Grow by loving others
 - Grow by obeying God’s Word
 - Grow by doing good deeds
 - Grow by putting spiritual priorities first
 - Grow by fellowshiping with God in prayer
 - Grow by exercising faith in the Lord
 - Grow by resisting temptation
 - Grow by serving the Lord
 - Grow by manifesting spiritual virtues

Takeaways:

RECOMMENDED READING

- Issler, K. (2012) Philosophy of education. In D. S. Dockery (Ed.), *A handbook for Christian higher education* (pp. 97-121). Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group.
- Palmer, P. J. (2017). *The courage to teach: Exploring the inner landscape of a teacher’s life*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Wilhoit, J. C. (2008). *Spiritual formation as if the church mattered: Growing in Christ through community*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academics.
- Zuck, R. B. (1995). *Teaching as Jesus taught*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers.
- Zuck, R. B. (1998). *Teaching as Paul taught*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers.