

HOW CHRISTIANLY DO YOU THINK AS A TEACHER?

In this personal blog, Megan Patterson asks: *Do all Christian teachers have a detailed Christian worldview? And is it important anyway?*

Teachers are really important. They are always **there**, aren't they? But in our politically correct society, maybe we are tending to forget what we have always known: *teachers teach from their hearts*.

So above all else, we should be helping Christian teachers cultivate *Godward* hearts.

Many, perhaps most teachers would be unable to articulate their worldview but subconsciously they teach from it nonetheless. Our pupils are therefore faced daily with a variety of worldviews. No education is neutral.

But given the pressures we face, Christian teachers can all too easily slip into thinking that their way of looking at the world is less valuable than their colleagues'. And as a result that they should simply hide what they believe.

Christians should be the most open to listen attentively to other people's worldviews -- and they should also be willing to articulate their own if occasion arises. But whether anything is said or not their behaviour and demeanour should match their worldview.

So much of the basis of Curriculum for Excellence is so clearly Christian. If we point *that* out to Christian teachers, it will help develop more confidence in our crucial contribution to schools. *Teaching Curriculum for Excellence is God-honouring teaching*. That is an energising thought and it should make Christian teachers teach with passion and enthusiasm.

To give just one example: cross-curricular work fits beautifully with the Christian view of integral human experience propounded by Dooyeweerd¹. It is hugely motivating when there is good reason for doing something, not just 'because the HMI require it.'

In a nondenominational school, we do not mention God's name frequently -- but He is very much at the forefront of Christian teachers' minds and in their hearts as they teach. That will show through -- and children miss nothing, as we know!

Should CVE Scotland run a seminar around these ideas -- something to get us teachers really thinking?

If you would like to respond to any of Megan's ideas, you can do so [here](#).

Megan Patterson has taught in various parts of Scotland, and also in Africa. She is currently involved in teacher training in West Africa, and is a member of the CVE Scotland Management Committee.

¹ Greene, A (2003) *Reclaiming the future of Christian education*, pp 99-102. Purposeful design publications: Colorado Springs.