

Renewing Minds: Union University and the Future of the Christian Intellectual Tradition





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

The language of Christian higher education has been tweaked: instead of “integration of faith and learning,” new terminology has been surfacing, including some of the terms Union has been employing: “intellectual mentorship,” “intellectual discipleship,” and “reclaiming the Christian intellectual tradition.”



The Christian Intellectual Tradition

“The richness of the Christian intellectual tradition—rooted in the Bible and expounded and developed by the great thinkers of the patristic period, the high middle ages, the Renaissance and Reformation, and even the modern period—is living proof of the power of faith to illumine the intellectual landscape and play a key role in the central mission of the university: inquiry in pursuit of truth” (Robert P. George, *Renewing Minds*, xv-xvi).





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

The Christian intellectual tradition espouses orthodoxy, application, and community.





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

“I would suggest that the starting point of loving God with our minds, thinking Christianly, points us to a unity of knowledge, a seamless whole, because all true knowledge flows from the one Creator to His one creation.” (David S. Dockery, *Renewing Minds*, 15).





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

Tradition as a gushing stream passed to / through us:

“Tradition is the living faith of dead people to which we must add our chapter while we have the gift of life. Traditionalism is the dead faith of living people who fear that if anything changes, the whole enterprise will crumble.” (Jaroslav

Pelikan, *The Vindication of Tradition:*

1983 Jefferson Lectures in the Humanities).





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

The Christian intellectual tradition is not about *personality* (not mere intellectual hagiography) but rather *principle* (the philosophical / theological foundations of a particular way of thinking Christianly).





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

“A worldview must seek to answer questions like:

- Where did we come from?
- Who are we?
- What has gone wrong with the world?
- What solution can be offered to deal with these challenges?”



(David S. Dockery, *Renewing Minds*, 52)



The Christian Intellectual Tradition

“A worldview must seek to answer questions like:

- Where did we come from?
- Who are we?
- What has gone wrong with the world?
- What solution can be offered to deal with these challenges?”

(David S. Dockery, *Renewing Minds*, 52)

- **For evangelicals, this falls under the framework of Creation-Fall-Redemption.**





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

“A Christian worldview has the stamp of reason and reality and can stand the tests of both history and experience. Such a holistic approach offers a stability of thought, a unity of comprehensive insight which bears not only on the religious sphere but on the whole of thought. . . .





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

“A Christian worldview is not built on various types of truth (religious and philosophical or scientific) but on a universal principle and all-embracing system that shapes religion, natural and social sciences, law, history, health care, the arts, the humanities, and all disciplines of study with application for all of life”

(David S. Dockery, *Renewing Minds*, 50-51).





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

Creation-Fall-Redemption: “Restoration Principle”:

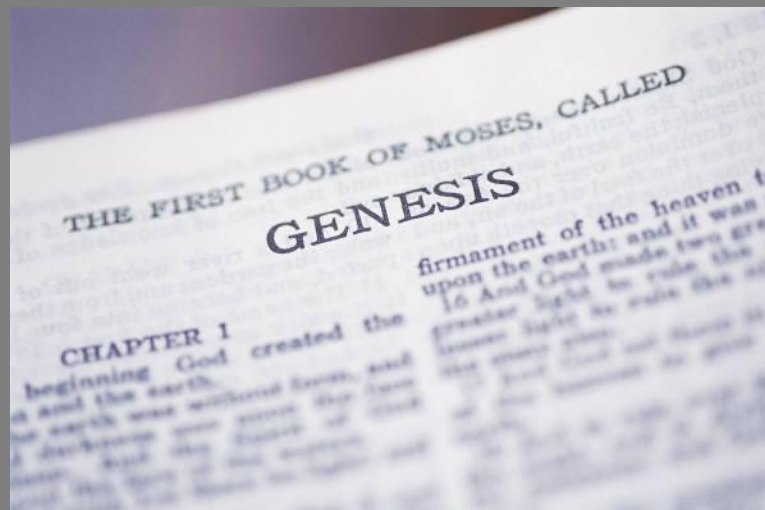
- Perfection-Imperfection-Restoration
- Balance-Imbalance-Restoration
- Wholeness-Brokenness-Mending
- Health-Illness-Healing
- Harmony-Disharmony-Resolution
- Peace-Conflict-Resolution
- Rising Action-Climax-Falling Action





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

- Location 1: the mainstream of the Christian intellectual tradition. Seeking after the lordship of Christ, employing a unity of knowledge and the Restoration Principle to all disciplines.





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

- Location 2: “The Spoils of Egypt”





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

- Location 2: “The Spoils of Egypt”: “Like the treasures of the ancient Egyptians [which were spoiled by the Israelites], . . . similarly all the branches of pagan learning contain not only false and superstitious fantasies and burdensome studies . . . but also studies for liberated minds which are more appropriate to the service of the truth, and some very useful moral instruction.”

(Augustine, *De Doctrina* 125).





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

- Location 2: “The Spoils of Egypt”

The principles / applications of the Christian intellectual tradition discovered among pre-Christian thinkers. “All truth is God’s truth.”





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

- Location 3: “The Spoils of Jerusalem”
The principles of the Christian intellectual tradition co-opted by post-Christian thinkers.
--“Free-loading atheists” (Richard Rorty).





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

- Location 3: “The Spoils of Jerusalem”

Ponder this: the Christian intellectual tradition is proclaimed in every village, town, and city square in the entirety of Europe!



© The Chapter of Durham and Jarrold Publishing





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

- Location 3: “The Spoils of Jerusalem”

The need is for a new generation to provide fresh words / interpretations for ancient and faithful ideas!





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

Creation-Fall-Redemption-*Mission*: the fourth element is critical to the Christian intellectual tradition.





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

Walter Anderson (1903-1965)





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

Walter Anderson (1903-1965)





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

Walter Anderson (1903-1965)





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

Walter Anderson (1903-1965)





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

Walter Anderson (1903-1965)





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

Walter Anderson (1903-1965)





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

Walter Anderson (1903-1965)





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

Walter Anderson (1903-1965)





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

Walter Anderson (1903-1965)





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

Walter Anderson (1903-1965)





The Christian Intellectual Tradition

Walter Anderson (1903-1965)



The Christian Intellectual Tradition

