

What on Earth are we doing?

Reflections on Christian Education

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To Know as We are Known: Education as a Spiritual Journey

“We are well educated people who have been schooled in a way of knowing that treats the worlds as an object to be dissected and manipulated, a way of knowing that gives us power over the world.” p. 2

“...in my own way I have used my knowledge to rearrange the world to satisfy my drive for power, distorting and deranging life rather than loving it for the gift it us.” p. 2

Interviewer: Will the United States be a better or worse place to live in the next ten years?

Student: The U.S. will definitely be a worse place to live.

Interviewer: Then you must be pessimistic about the future?

Student: No, I'm optimistic.

Interviewer (with surprise): Why?

Student: Because I have a high grade point average, and I'm gong to get a good job, make a lot of money, and live in a nice house.

“But my own Experience suggests that their fantastic ethic reflects the mode of knowing in which they have been schooled. They have learned that the world is an object to be manipulated, and though they have lost my generation's confidence that the whole world can be rearranged, they still believe that a small part of it can be organized to suit their personal needs.” pg. 5

- “Where conventional education deals with abstract and impersonal facts and theories, an education shaped by Christian spirituality draws us toward incarnate and personal truth. In this education we come to know the world not simply as an objectified system of empirical objects in logical connection with each other, but as an organic body of personal relations and responses, a living and evolving community of creativity and compassion. Education of this sort means more than teaching the facts and learning the reasons so we can manipulate life toward our ends. It means being drawn into personal responsiveness and accountability to each other and the world of which we are a part.” (p. 15)