**Why the University Should Matter to the Church**

Episode #5: Professors as Influencers and Influences on Professors

Biblical | Theological | Historical | Philosophical | Practical | Example

**Pressures on Profs** The first question I was asked;Tenure / Full Time / Adjunct, cancellation (keeping their job, feeding their family), students control the classroom, administrative expansion impose more professorial constraints, declining enrollment, “publish or perish,” comparison never stops, cultural – economic influence on education, professors, distance learning, DOE – Accreditation – College directives, artificial intelligence, technocrats (Neil Postman *Technopoly*), data-driven, STEM rules, classical, merit v quotas (hiring), biases, “digging deep holes,” focused on their field

**Positive Cultural Perspectives** Heterodox Academy, National Association of Scholars (NAS), Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI), F.I.R.E. Foundation for Individual Rights & Expression, ADF Alliance Defending Freedom, Grand Canyon University tripled students, Liberty University (Dr. Dondi Costin), Lancaster Bible College | Graduate School (LBC), University of Austin, Texas

University views of “Truth” = Sincerity authenticity personally (individual & institution)

**The Church’s view of Truth = Authority comes from The Words of a Personal God**

YHWH spoke His creation into existence, The Authority giving authority (creational revelation) & YHWH spoke His authorial intention into existence, The Authority giving authority (special revelation)

**What to listen for, from every professor (including me):** (1) assumptions (2) exclusions (3) citations (4) defamations (5) definitions. The overwhelming majority of professors you will encounter at university will side with progressive liberalism. I have identified the perspective in past teachings. The essential idea of the two words together suggests a human-centered authority with a penchant to believe that creational revelation must be overthrown to allow newer, more superior ideas to hold cultural sway. You can check the social media outlets and Substack pages to determine where your professors lean.

**Books and Authors to Know:** *Range, How to Think,* *The Year of Our Lord 1943: Christian Humanism in an Age of Crisis* *Lost in Thought: The Hidden Pleasures of the Intellectual Life*; MacDonald *When Race Trumps Merit*; *Coddling of the American Mind* (Haidt). *Timeless Truth* (Eckel, Purposeful Design **The best / worst teacher movies** *The Emperor’s Club, Dead Poet’s Society* **Church History** Alcuin

**Dominant Educational Theories to Know:** (1) Constructivism: self-created (constructed) reality, ethics, knowledge, curricula (2) Deconstruction, humans create their own meaning by creating truth based on how their interpret ideas at any given time (3) Nihilism is the result: people believe in anything

**Truth is:** 1. Practical, conforming to our real world. 2. **Sensible**, working and functioning with what is; we can live with it. 3. Consistent, something we can count on; truth is dependable. 4. **Universal**, for all people, in all places, at all times, in all cultures. 5. Comparable, showing its superiority compared with other “truths.” 6. **Exclusive**, defining validity and falsehood by its very presence. 7. Verifiable, withstanding intellectual and historical tests. 8. **Absolute**, not altered to fit the circumstances. 9. Transcendent, originating outside human reason. 10. **Objective**, working because it is true, not merely subjective or experiential. [“And God said,” “Thus says the LORD,” “Amen” Deut 32.4; Ps 119.160]

**How to Conduct Yourself with Professors** 1. Respect for the prof and the subject. 2. Excellence in your work. 3. Appreciation for their work. 4. Communicate with kind forthrightness. 5. Hear what is \*not\* being said (assumptions, definitions, examples, citations) 6. Ask questions with the goal of learning. 7. Consider the pressures they face; make their job easier. 8. Remember, the university is not The Church