Holistic Christian Education

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Valamo Lay Academy

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Growing in the Church

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Introduction

a- Importance of the terms definition.

b- The polemic fact:

      i- Religion as "supra intellectual" sphere.

      ii- Education as positive mean for knowledge acquisition.

c- The problematic status of "Religious Education":

      i- What to teach?

      ii- What to learn?

      iii- What to use?

Guidelines for a possible answer (1)

a- What Religion is not:

    i- A dogmatic entity; if not it will end by being an ideological sectarian body.

    ii- An administrative structure; if not it will end by being a rigid pyramidal body.

    iii- A liturgical series of habits; if not it will end by being a piety body.

    iv- All of the above.

Guidelines for a possible answer (2)

b- What Education is not:

i- A top to bottom input system; it will identify data collection and knowledge acquisition.

ii- A one subject matter focus; it will end by disintegrating the learner's mind.

iii- A series of technical recipes; it will loose the esprit of innovation and the possibility of contextualization.

iv- All of the above.

Guidelines for a possible answer (3)

c- A possible answer will have to take into consideration:

i- The anthropological specificity of Christianity.

ii- The dynamic and constructive aspect of the education process.

iii- The cognitive developmental potential of human beings.

"Christian Aspects" of the Cognitive Approach (1)

a- Human dimension:

   i- The person is the focus of interest.

   ii- The human environment as a main context for any human endeavor.

   iii- The growth and a basic mean for any type of development.

"Christian Aspects" of the Cognitive Approach (2)

b- Learning dimension:

  i- The person specificity in terms of potentials and charisma.

  ii- The experience input in any learning process.

  iii- The personal involvement in any acquisition process.

"Christian Aspects" of the Cognitive Approach (3)

c- The technical dimension:

      i- Learning by adapting and adopting.

      ii- Learning by doing.

      iii- Learning by questioning.

Growing in Christ (1)

a- Role of the community :

i- Tutoring.

ii- Charisma recognition.

iii- Witnessing behavior.

Growing in Christ (2)

b- The Knowledge transmission: Critical thinking as a must:

      i- Doing.

      ii- Explaining.

      iii- Questioning.

Growing in Christ (3)

c- The Technical Environment: Needed creativity :

i- Content of the message.

ii- Language of the message.

iii- Format of the message.

Growing in Christ (4)

d- What to avoid:

   a- Technical plagiarism;

as if it is a must to copy what seems successful elsewhere.

   b- "Reductionism";

as if the religion can be reduced to one component.

   c- Generalization;

as if individuals and communities are mere photocopies of each other.

Conclusion

a- Needs for experiences and experimentations.

b- Needs for an "orthodox educational networking".

c- Needs for a community awareness.