



CARE CONVERSATIONS

FORWARD
FROM
DR TED BOYCE



Dear Friend,

Please find below a reflection to encourage you in your work of Christian education. We will send these out weekly and hope that these thoughts feed your soul.

The first series is based on CS Lewis' "Mere Christianity", and is therefore called "Mere Christian Education" by Dr Stephen Fyson.

Should you not wish to receive these reflections from me or my team in the future please unsubscribe at the bottom of this email.

*In Grace and Truth,
Dr Ted Boyce.*

Series 1:

MERE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

REFLECTION BY
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Number 1:

PEOPLE DISAPPOINT US

How often do we become confused by those around us? On one hand, they are wonderful Christian brothers and sisters; yet they are also the same people who disappoint us in sometimes profound ways. This can be a teacher in the classroom, or a leader of teachers (and if we are really honest, sometimes the people at home).

We can become caught in a roundabout of hope and despair, of joy and sadness, and of progress and intransigence in our Christian education settings. CS Lewis would agree that this struggle is properly disappointing. He would also challenge us that this pattern of seeing good and not-good in each of us, should not surprise us:

... human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and cannot really get rid of it... [but] they do not, in fact behave that way. They know the Law of Nature; they break it. These two facts are the foundation of all clear thinking about ourselves and the universe we live in. (Mere Christianity p. 19)

People who do not believe that we are people of spirit and mind, and who instead believe that we are just brain and body, cannot understand this. We can, and should. If we understand that we are made in the Image of God, and also sinners, we can hold onto “hope within the mess” (to quote Mike Potter). Alvin Platinga (in *Warranted*

Christian Belief) said it really well:

I want to be autonomous, beholden to no one. Perhaps this is the deepest root of the condition of sin. The defect here is affective, not intellectual. Our affections are disordered; they no longer work as in God's original design plan for human beings. [208]. She sees what is right, but prefers what is wrong. [209]

OUR CHALLENGE?

To help all of our people and ourselves understand that we will be disappointed and we too will disappoint others. This is why we need Jesus. We want to create a culture that encourages this understanding. We want to accept each other as we are, for Christ died for all.

In Grace and Truth

Stephen J Fyson PhD
Principal Consultant
The Excellence Centre



We value your questions, thoughts and comments; so why not drop us a line to share how this newsletter has helped / inspired you. [Send us an email](#)



Our Vision...to transform the practice of Christian Education

We pursue our vision from a biblical base by aiming:

- To be authentically Christian
- Provide excellent products, services and research products
- Practice Christian Community

The Excellence Centre is a not for profit ministry of Pacific Hills Christian Education based at our Dural Campus in Sydney Australia.

You can read more about TEC at: <http://www.theexcellencecentre.org>





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