



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 6:
WHAT IS
MOTIVATION
ABOUT?



As educators, we hear a lot of talk about motivation. We are told that our teachers are better practitioners if they can increase the motivation of our students. We are told that food can have an impact on student motivation. We are told that technology can have an impact on student motivation. We are told that room structures can have an impact on student motivation.

Certainly, there are kernels of truth in all of these reflections. However, our students, like our teachers, are not machines or animals. They cannot be engineered to be better learners. They cannot be trained by instinct to be better learners.

The people in our communities can be *invited* to reflect on their deepest desires. These desires can be reflected in whether or not they wish to explore the purpose of what they are learning. That is, what will they do with what they learn? That is a question of the heart, which is driven by what Jonathan Edwards called our 'Religious Affections'. CS Lewis reflected on the basic choice we have this way:

...the Christian thinks any good he does comes from the Christ-life inside

him. He does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us. (61)

Biblically, motivation is understanding where we place our treasures. That is where our heart is. We can invest in treasure that are in response to God's mercy, or not. Living in response to this mercy is what invites the Christ-life into us. That is the deepest 'motivation' our students and teachers can have – a heart committed to learning how to share the gifts that God has given each one of us.

May God give us the grace to see more clearly the hearts of our students and teachers. That will be the greatest motivation factor we can study in our work.

Grace and peace,

Stephen J Fyson PhD
Principal Consultant
The Excellence Centre

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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.

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