

Welcome to Teachers Talking e-newsletter

[View this email in your browser](#)



TEACHERS TALKING

FORWARD
FROM
DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Hello Friend,

Welcome to Teachers Talking for 2019. One of the aims of the Excellence Centre is to bless and encourage teachers in the important role they play in a child's education. During Term 1, the Teachers Talking offerings will focus on the profound truth that humans are made in the image of God "*Imago Dei*". One of the most profound questions that are being asked in the 21st Century is "What does it mean to be human?"

In our culture there is a crisis of the human spirit. Our young people are longing for a sense of identity that will bring meaning and fulfilment to their lives. The answer to the Psalmist's question "*What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?*" (Psalm 8:4) is core to understanding what it means to be human and how to flourish as a human being. The Lord Jesus through His Gospel work, came to restore in us our true humanity. Christian

education is about teaching students a new way of being human, directing their lives to the pathway God always intended them to walk. As teachers and school communities, we are to embody what it means to be Christ's new humanity.

We trust these talks will assist you as a teacher to explore with your students through their learning the wonder and depth of what it means that each one is a unique image-bearer of the living God.

"You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour." (Psalm 8:5)

Grace and Peace,

The Team



A poem by Athalia Bond is reflective of many young people who are seeking to construct their own meaning – *'we are a fractured people living lives of many strands, pick a path, pick a story, the life you want is on demand We are a*

broken people set forth upon shifting seas ... drowning in our own fantasies.'

Facebook and Instagram have become mirrors to see if students receive “likes” for the image they present. They are trying to define themselves horizontally. But into this God’s Word speaks life-changing truth. “*Let us make man in our image, our likeness... So God created man in his own image; male and female He created them.*” (Genesis 1:26, 27)

What a profound truth about our lives and our students. Imago Dei, the image of God, is the unique imprint God placed upon humanity, identifying people as a special creation. We are defined vertically in relation to our Creator and this means every person has intrinsic worth and dignity. From this truth flows a definition of human experience, God made human beings from “*the adamah*” – the ground (Genesis 2:7) and we are *embodied souls* (CS Lewis), whole people designed to live God-glorifying lives in our bodies. Like God, we are personal and relational and intended to relate to everything personally. We are intended to worship and love God with our whole life and experience His likeness in all aspects of our humanity. All our relationships are to be characterised by love in the same way the Father, Son and Holy Spirit love one another. God’s truth is the moral framework that shapes what love looks like in the reality of life. We also recognise that like ourselves, our students are born fallen image bearers who seek to run their lives independently from God. Without God’s grace, in Christ, our heart orientation is to live for self. Through the Gospel work of Jesus, God is restoring His good creation and invites our students to be part of this great reclamation project. The orientation of the learner’s heart will shape and give direction to their lives and response to what they learn.

At the heart of effective education is the need to nurture each student as created uniquely in the image of God and gifted to serve others. The school community, though imperfect, is to be a foretaste of the new humanity and encourage each student to become this kind of person. We are to assist our students to make a life, not just a living.

- How do we assist our students to accept their identity as a God-given gift and explore what it means to live that out? (rather than construct their own identity)
- How do we engage their hearts and minds with the truth of God’s Word as the moral framework for their lives?
- Do we discern the fears and disordered passions that are in the students’ hearts?
- Do we appreciate the confusing emotions amidst the competing voices

around them that conflict with God's Word?

Let us help our students reorient their lives to their Creator in every aspect of school life. May we help them to find the joy of knowing Christ and fulfilling their God-given purpose. As Eric Liddell (the 1924 Olympic runner) said: *"God has made me fast and when I run I feel His pleasure"*

OS Guinness said:

"Calling is not only a matter of being and doing what we are but also becoming what we are not yet but *called by God to be.*"

Grace and peace

The Team



 Share  Tweet  Share  Forward

That's all for now, read more at www.theexcellencecentre.org

[Forward this email to a friend](#)



Copyright © 2019 The Excellence Centre, All rights reserved.



+61 2 9651 0712



[email us](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or
if you do not wish to receive these

reflections from Dr Ted Boyce or his team please
[unsubscribe from this list](#)

