BIBLICAL INTEGRATION in the K-12 CURRICULUM
The WHAT and WHY and Some Radical Implications
Biblical Integration is (is this what is true for you?)

- A mandate for Christian schools; the pressure for some schools is even more.
- A never ending challenge of fulfilling the Great Commission in the K-12 curriculum.
- To acknowledge the value of Bible teaching, even the primacy of the Bible
- To give importance to the biblical/Christian view.
- BUT what does it look like?
- How do we define? How do we integrate?
What is Biblical Integration? What does it look like?
How do we view biblical integration? What is the activity of biblical integration?
What do we do when we integrate the Bible in our lesson plans?
Is the Bible something that we “intentionally insert” in our curriculum?
The goal of Biblical integration is to help students to think biblically and critically about every subject. Further, the goal is for students to think biblically and critically about every aspect of their lives. Ideally, students should seek to see each subject the way God sees it. When students truly understand something from a biblical perspective, they should gain a greater understanding of the character or nature of God, or have a greater understanding of how God designed things to be.

(Excerpt from Biblical Integration.com)
Truth
Knowledge
God
HOW DO WE INTEGRATE THE BIBLE?
SOME EXAMPLES OF BIBLICAL INTEGRATION

Using a Bible-Based Math Curriculum

Ideas and resources for teaching math with the Bible

©http://ProverbialHomemaker.com
Hebrews 13:8
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

- A chemical reaction occurs when a chemical bond breaks or when a new bond forms.
- The amount of matter in a chemical reaction cannot change.
- During a chemical reaction, the materials that are already there are called the reactants.
- After the reaction is finished,
An Example of Biblical Integration

Colossians 1:16
For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

This verse is relevant to matter because everything in the universe is created by

- Everything in the universe is matter.
- It has mass and takes up space.
- Matter has 3 states.
- It can be measured in volume, density and other measurements.
Challenges Posed by Doing Biblical Integration
Challenges Posed by FLI

- Forced insert ("pilit")
- 2 frameworks are introduced (confusing)
- Where should be the emphasis?
- Teachers are actually not equipped to do the skill of biblical integration.
- Inconsistency; huge disconnect bet. "talk and walk"
- What should outcomes look like in a biblically integrated curriculum?
Some Models of Integration

3. Faith Learning Integration through Values Ed and Religious Practices
4. Biblical Integration in all subjects
The Fansworth Model of BI (1982)

Farnsworth’s model operates on a problem-posing approach. The students or researchers are given a real life problem that is pertinent to their disciplines, which must then be solved through the use of integration. Once the problem has been identified the first step is to determine the possible “sources of revelation.” In Farnsworth’s model this means the Bible and the human experience. (applied in adult learning)
Connecting Faith to the Subject Matter by Burton and Nwosu (2003)

Integration is a process of connecting faith and the pertinent subject matter at hand. This model encourages the use of Christian examples that will prompt students to reflect about their own Christian perspective. This model of integration also promotes the development of critical thinking.
The spiritual and intellectual aspects must work hand in hand in integration. In this model, the requirements of the curriculum must first be accomplished before supplementing it with pertinent life issues and experiences. Not only will this help the students understand and remember details, facts, examples and reasons but it will also guide them in the evaluation of their faith along the way.
Some Observed Models in the K-12 Curriculum Landscape

1. Faith Learning Integration through Values Ed and Religious Practices
   - A Very common model of integration
   - Often facilitated by religious groups
   - Some other religious practices: Chapel services, camps, retreats, prayer times
Some Observed Models in the K-12 Curriculum Landscape

2 Biblical Integration in all subjects

- Intentionally integrative
- Driven by discipleship outcomes
- Requires much training for teachers in knowledge of the Bible and pedagogical skills
Assuming that BI is intentionally done across K-12 curriculum, so what is so compelling about it?
Are we graduates of Christian schools?

How was your experience of biblical integration?

The question of impact and transformational learning
Thinking Biblically and Critically

The goal of Biblical integration is to help students to think biblically and critically about every subject. Further, the goal is for students to think biblically and critically about every aspect of their lives. Ideally, students should seek to see each subject the way God sees it. When students truly understand something from a biblical perspective, they should gain a greater understanding of the character or nature of God, or have a greater understanding of how God designed things to be.

(Excerpt from Biblical Integration.com)
THE GOALS OF BIBLICAL INTEGRATION

The Biblical Integration Conference:
Discipleship and Excellence in Christian Schooling
What can you do to intentionally promote loving God and obeying His commands?

• See teaching as a ministry, a vocation, a calling.
• Find ways to introduce the students to God and His Word.
• Help or assist students to make connections with what they are studying to what God has done and still doing.
• Encourage students to ask questions about God and the world (subjects).
• PRAY FOR OUR STUDENTS.
The Spiritual Life of the Teacher is Very Critical

• We cannot give what we don’t have.
• Modelling is the best form of teaching faith and promoting spiritual growth!
• Remember: Students can sense pretense and hypocrisy.
• The curriculum is the teacher!
The Call to intentionally and actively Promote Authenticity in Teaching

Good teaching cannot be reduced to technique; good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher.

Parker J. Palmer
meetville.com