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Philosophy & Education: An Introduction In Christian Perspective



Synopsis

Knight's textbook surveys the philosophies and philosophic issues relevant to Christian education. Teachers, students of education, and other readers will find this book a "helpful guide for analyzing educational purposes and practices in the light of their basic beliefs." Besides investigating the relationship between philosophy and education and discussing how philosophies have affected contemporary practices in the classroom, Knight offers a Christian approach to philosophy and relates such an approach to educational practices. Philosophy and Education is divided into three sections. Part I deals with basic concepts in philosophy and the relationship between philosophy and education. Part II is a survey of how traditional and modern philosophies have faced the basic philosophic questions and what that has meant for educational practice. Part III discusses the necessity of developing a personal philosophy of education, one possible approach to a Christian philosophy, and some of the ramifications of such a philosophy for educational practice in Christian schools.

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Customer Reviews

Traditional educational philosophies are helpful to some degree, for instance Knight points out that postmodernists' interest in social issues is similar to those listed in the Bible (94). Though there are some truths expressed in various philosophies, they all fail in their understanding of the human condition (133). Knight is careful to distinguish the uniqueness of Christian education, which is a "redemptive act"-one that seeks to reconcile students to the image of God (198). Since teachers are

"agents of reconciliation" (200), it is important that they have a personal relationship with Christ (207). Knight describes teaching as the "art of loving God's children" (209). This love for students and truth is what fuels the central philosophy of Christian education, which is based on God as Creator, the disparity between good and evil, the consequences of sin and humanity, God's revelation of Himself through the Bible, and knowledge of His loving kindness and mercy (241). The very essence of Christian education is that "life is meaningless outside of Christ" and educators are to guide students to the same conclusion (242). All students, regardless if they are a believer or nonbeliever, should be given an opportunity for a life in Christ. Although Knight states that Christian education is a "redemptive act" and teachers are "agents of reconciliation," pointing students to the Savior is not confined to Christian institutions. If given the opportunity, Christian teachers can use their student's negative life situations to talk about Christ. Knight puts the correct perspective of teaching: no matter where a believer teaches, the main objective is always the same-to be used as an instrument in drawing people to Christ.

My classmates preferred the other textbook we read (Foundations of Christian Education), but I really loved this book. His main point is that "mindlessness" has characterized teachers who simply pull from a variety of methods and philosophies without realizing they do not cohesively integrate. As Christians, our practices and theories which inform our practices should be distinctively Christian. My philosophy of education is much more clear and consistent as a result of this book. His insights on Christian axiology and esthetics alone are worth the whole price of the book! That section is underlined and starred all over the place.

Having taken the course "Philosophy of Education" and having to use many textbooks, one of which was "Philosophy and Education: An Introduction in Christian Perspective" by George R. Knight, I was given a broad perspective of what the philosophies of education are. This book centers on the philosophy that is held by most major monotheistic religions and the author does not presuppose that the reader is already grounded in the basics of Christian educational philosophy because the book is intended for use in the Christian environment. I recommend this book to those that want to have a broader perspective in educational philosophy.

When I was asked to read this text for my Fundamental of Philosophy class I was not thrilled, but now I am half way through and I am convinced that every educator must read this book. The shipping process was fast and the book was in excellent condition.

This was an excellent text book. The information was relevant to my course (Philosophy For Education). The formatting of the text was user friendly. My kindle version was very useful to me in the class room setting. I appreciated the comparative christian prospective.

An excellent book. It demonstrates that every educational theory was inspired by some philosophy. Thus you cannot understand educational theory unless you know the underlying philosophy. Yet it is written in a simple, clear form (sometimes a little too simplistic, if you have a philosophy background, but the intended readers are teachers, not philosophers). I have used the book in a worldview class to illustrate the importance of being able to identify the worldviews that influence theory-formation within all the academic disciplines, not just education.

This is a great book! I bought it as requirement for a class, I really enjoyed reading it. Normally the philosophical language is very difficult to understand but the author explained each philosophical movement very easy to understand. I recommend it!

I bought this book for a graduate-level education course. It is well-organized and well-written. It makes for an excellent resource for anyone citing educational philosophers or even anyone interested in the different philosophical schools of thought pertaining to education.

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