

The Paradigm Shift for Christian Education

Education/Activity Model

Image: classroom/school

Medium: print, information, conceptual frameworks, ideas, curriculum

Goal: Knowledge building for growth and human fulfillment; understanding; socialization into church/culture

Goal is aimed for in struggling with issues of faith and reason

Teacher: technician leadership

Core Values: autonomy of self and democracy

A programmatic activity in the church

Christian teaching is largely isolated from discipline and experience

Oriented to “right thinking” as understanding the concepts of Christian teaching and participation in the activities of the church

Focused on religion and the church as institution (transactional)

Tends toward a truce with the dominant culture.

The Formation/Catechesis Model

Image: apprenticeship

Medium: the journey, the practice of the craft of discipleship, daily life and means of grace

Goal: Transformation of persons who are entering into the mystery of Christ with the Church as it journeys in faithfulness

Goal is aimed for by striving to be faithful to Jesus and to neighbor, especially the poor and marginalized

Mentor: practitioner leadership

Core Values: Gospel identity and obedience; identity as gift and obedience to the guidance of the risen Lord by the Holy Spirit

The primary and ongoing communal process within the church

Christian teacher/formation is largely integrated with experience and discipline in Worship, prayer, reflection on scripture and daily life, service to God and neighbor

Oriented to “right being and doing” as a faithful servant of Jesus. The whole person is experiencing what it means to be loved and to love

Focused on people and God’s reign in daily life (transformational)

In tension with dominant culture (countercultural)