

Worklife Restoration and Advancement Project [WRAP]

FOR A VIDEO ABOUT THE RATIONALE OF THE WRAP Ctrl + Click <http://youtu.be/v9ux8UeqYFM>

The Aspiration:

- To re-direct the course of history by embedding a biblical view of work and human flourishing into the standard Christian school curriculum, from pre-school through high school, to fully equip students to engage in something grand, beyond themselves, yet in the here and now, by engaging in work of all kinds (both present and future) as the very work of God.

The Problem:

- When students fail to put biology, art and math into the context of a biblical worldview, they will tend to become “Christian dualists,” seeing the Bible as relevant to their personal and private lives, or the affairs of the church, but not to business, law or civil service. Because of this view, many will leave their faith at the workplace door, as adults, and the world suffers.
- Students often fail to see their school work as God’s work for them, and this hinders them from experiencing purpose and meaning in school. It also deters them from a sense of later meaning and significance in occupations other than church-related vocations.

The Solution:

- Christian schools are in a unique position to build into the minds and hearts of students an understanding that all legitimate work is the work of God. Such schools can embed “theology of work and human flourishing” into the school’s curriculum, at all levels, in a way that is systemic, intentional and repeatable. They can create curriculum maps wherein a biblical concept of work dovetails seamlessly into academic course content, without adding a new subject to the teachers’ load.
- Christian schools can actively eliminate “SSD,” the “Sacred-Secular Divide,” and enable students to engage in God’s purposes for humans in the full spectrum of creation, fulfilling the First Commission of Gen. 1:26-28, to govern over Earth, in harmony with the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20, teaching others to observe all that Christ commanded.

The Means:

- **On-line instruction through a distance-learning course called, “Increase Meaning: A Wholistic Approach To Christian Education”¹**
 - ✓ This on-line course provides key concepts and practical skills necessary for fulfilling the aforementioned goals and objectives, creating a unified vision through the use of practical teaching aids that embed “theology of work and human flourishing” throughout the school curriculum, in all grade levels, and all subjects, without adding a separate course
 - ✓ The on-line training has 12 video lectures, each about 1 hour in length
 - ✓ Professional and individualized reviews of all written assignments is provided
 - ✓ **Optional 5 college (graduate level) credits** may be earned through a fully accredited United States university [the Seattle Pacific University syllabus is available upon request]
 - ✓ Participants who complete the course will be awarded **10 Continuing Education Units (CEUs)** in *either* Biblical Studies *or* Educational Studies recognized by the Association of Christian Schools International [ACSI], and this course **satisfies the ACSI requirement for the Philosophy of Christian Education course**
 - ✓ Participants have approximately 9 months to complete the on-line training course
 - ✓ Four books come with the course: *Assumptions That Affect Our Lives, God’s Pleasure At Work*, and *The Difference One Life Can Make*, by Christian Overman, and *LifeWork: A Biblical Theology for What You Do Every Day* by Darrow Miller
 - ✓ Classroom-ready teaching tools are taught: *The Conversation Starter* [for developing lesson plans that place any academic subject into the context of a biblical worldview], *The Truth and Baloney Detector* [for helping students sort truth from non-truth], *The DADI Plan* [for aligning all kinds of work with the “bigger picture” of a biblical worldview], *The Awesome Activator* [for connecting student activities and projects with the “bigger picture” that brings meaning and significance], *101 Biblical Worldview Truths* [for determining “connecting points” between various subjects/work experiences and the biblical work-and-life view], and more!
- **School Leadership Coaching with a Worldview Matters Certified Coach**
 - ✓ The school headmaster and selected leaders have a 30-minute coaching conversation every 2 weeks with a Certified Worldview Matters Coach
 - ✓ Coaching sessions are conducted via telephone or the Internet, anywhere in the world

¹Dr. Christian Overman is the developer of the *Increase Meaning* course, and the primary instructor. He served as a Christian school Headmaster for fourteen years, after which he, and his wife, Kathy, founded an educational consulting service in the year 2000, called Worldview Matters®. (See www.worldviewmatters.com.) Christian is the author of several books, including *Assumptions That Affect Our Lives, God’s Pleasure At Work, The Difference One Life Can Make*, and *Making the Connections: How to Put Biblical Worldview Integration Into Practice*, co-authored with Don Johnson. He is also does a weekly blog called, *Worldview Matters*, at www.biblicalworldviewmatters.blogspot.com.

The Process:

Phase 1: A Small Group of Leaders in the School Complete the Course

- ✓ The chief leader of the school [the headmaster of a smaller school or superintendent of a larger school] completes the on-line course with a small group of key leaders as a “Phase 1 Group,” to understand the material and, and to make sure it is fitting for their school
- ✓ This process takes about 9 months, coinciding with the academic school year
- ✓ During this time, the headmaster and/or the full Phase 1 Group will have on-going coaching conversations with a certified Worldview Matters coach for 30 minutes every 2 weeks via telephone or the Internet
- ✓ If a particular school determines that the WRAP is not a good fit for their school, or the timing is not right (or if Worldview Matters should determine this), there is no obligation to continue into Phase 2

Phase 2: All Other Teachers Complete the Course

- ✓ All other teachers in the school complete the on-line course as a “Phase 2 Group” during the second academic school year of the WRAP
- ✓ The Phase 1 Group that completed the course in the previous year begins the process of curriculum mapping, creating specific models of embedding biblical worldview and theology of work into the academic curriculum scope and sequence of the school
- ✓ The Phase 1 Group encourages teachers in the Phase 2 Group
- ✓ The headmaster and selected members of the Phase 1 Group continue to have coaching conversations with the certified Worldview Matters coach throughout the academic year

Phase 3: Curriculum Mapping

- ✓ During “Phase 3,” all teachers examine their respective academic objectives to determine the most fitting places for theology of work and human flourishing to be embedded seamlessly into the curriculum, in way that is systemic, intentional and repeatable
- ✓ On-going coaching with a certified Worldview Matters coach is optional during Phase 3, at the request of the principal or superintendent

The Price:

- Grant funding to cover the cost of tuition and texts for the on-line course may be available through foundations working with Worldview Matters. Contact Worldview Matters for details.
- The cost for the on-line course (tuition and texts) is \$270 per person, plus the cost of shipping texts to the school. If anyone wants to earn 5 college credits for the course, this will be handled directly through Seattle Pacific University. Their tuition fee (as of September, 2016) is \$495, with an additional cost of \$72 for the texts {paid to Worldview Matters), plus shipping.
- The cost of the coaching conversations is \$800 per year. Grant funding does not cover this cost.

The Benefits:

- **Students** will develop a sense of meaning and purpose for their lives, and for their studies. They will understand that no matter what occupational path they may take, whether in business, civil service, or homemaking, they will be doing God's work, for His glory. They will understand there is no "ordinary" work.
- **Parents** will be delighted, which translates into increased value and greater return on their investment in their children, not to mention the investment in the school.
- **Teachers** will know they are shaping history, and this will bring greater meaning and significance to their daily work.

Referrals:

Worldview Matters® is endorsed by a wide number of national and international Christian leaders. For a list of commendations and referrals, see http://bit.ly/WM_referrals. Additional referrals are available upon request, including school leaders whose schools have participated in the WRAP.

First Steps:

- **Read Dr. Overman's essay, *The Lost Purpose For Learning***, to get a better understanding of the biblical foundations for the WRAP, and the overall aims of the program:
<http://bit.ly/1VcPAuf>
- **Have an exploratory conversation with Christian Overman via telephone or the Internet.** This will help to determine if the WRAP is a "right fit" for you and your school. Send your request for a conversation via this link: http://bit.ly/converse_1
- **Submit a WRAP Application Form.** You may receive this Application Form by contacting Worldview Matters through the above link.
- **WRAP Applications for the coming 2016-17 school year are due May 1, 2016.** The number of WRAP schools is quite limited, so we recommend early application.

