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The Integration of Faith and Learning: Perspectives on the Librarian's Role

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The Integration of Faith and Learning

Perspectives on the Librarian's Role



Gregory A. Smith
(panelist)

The Concept of Integration

Gangel (2001):

[T]his term . . . refers to the teaching of all subjects as part of the total truth of God, thereby enabling students to see the unity of natural and special revelation.

. . .

Evangelical educators affirm that *all truth is God's truth*. But what does that mean?

The Concept of Integration

Simply that wherever truth is found, if it is genuine truth, one can ultimately trace it back to the God of the Bible. And since the God of the Bible is also the God of creation, the true relationship between natural and special revelation begins to emerge at the junction of epistemology.
(p. 366)

The Concept of Integration

Hasker (1992):

Faith-learning integration may be briefly described as *a scholarly project whose goal is to ascertain and to develop integral relationships which exist between the Christian faith and human knowledge, particularly as expressed in the various academic disciplines.*

The Concept of Integration

Henry (1989):

A comprehensive world-life view will embrace not only isolated consequences but will bear on the whole of existence and life and supply the presuppositions upon which an orderly and consistent Christian involvement can be based.

The Concept of Integration

Just as the Enlightenment in its revolt against biblical theism sought to explain law, religion, science, ethics, and all aspects of culture without reference to miraculous revelation and redemption, so Christian supernaturalism must bring into its purview every sphere of reality and activity. (pp. 29-30)

The Feasibility of Integration

Smith (2002):

- The argument from *history*
The propagation of the Christian faith benefits from effective librarianship.
- The argument from *philosophy*
The Christian worldview provides a viable philosophical framework for librarianship.
- The argument from *religion*
The holistic nature of Christian discipleship demands integration with all fields of study, including library science.

The History of Integration

- Catholic Library Association
- American Theological Library Association
- Association of Christian Librarians
- Librarians' Christian Fellowship

Issues in Integration

- Unifying principle
- Extent of reliance on special revelation
- Neutrality vs. responsibility
- Difference between Christian and non-Christian contexts
- Sunday opening

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