WEAVING THE FABRIC OF FAITHFULNESS

Cultivating a Life of Integrity

Dr. Alan Pue, President, The Barnabas Group, Castle Rock, CO
apuetbg@aol.com/www.thebarnabasgroup.com
A weapon of mass destruction?
“Through the driest years, the web of life held.”
A new dustbowl
the maelstrom of modernity

“Our current social condition – the maelstrom of modernity – makes it incredibly difficult for Christian students to form a life that integrally connects their personal and public worlds. Characteristically, it is not that they choose to disconnect; rather it is in the very air they breathe as they grow up in America.”

Steven Garber, The Fabric of Faithfulness
the maelstrom of modernity

Context Realities

• Pervasive media
• Conspicuous consumption
• Diminished margins
• A loss of the transcendent
• Tribal truths
Cultivate lives of integrity by . . .

weaving the fabric of faithfulness
And here are the threads of faithfulness

✓ A reasonable faith (Proverbs 1:2)
✓ An integral faith (Proverbs 1:3)
✓ An embodied faith (Proverbs 1:4)
✓ A willing faith (Proverbs 1:5)
✓ A community faith (Proverbs 1:8-33)
✓ A consuming faith (Proverbs 1:7)
“Belief and behavior are braided together in the deepest places in the heart.”

Steven Garber
A Reasonable Faith

- Behavior
- Value
- Belief
A Reasonable Faith

Education or Indoctrination
An Integral faith

Are we fattening geese or training athletes?
An Integral Faith

To “put godliness into working clothes”
An Integral Faith

“the final apologetic”
“Attract them by your way of life if you want them to receive such teaching from you.”

Augustine to Discorcous
An Embodied Faith

“We do not learn to lay bricks without guidance from masters; neither do we learn how to hope without guidance from masters.”

Stanley Hauerwas, Hope Faces Power: Thomas More and the King of England
The Word became flesh
A Willing Faith

Solomon speaks to his son

- Hear my son, your father’s instruction
- Do not forsake your mother’s teaching
- If sinners entice you, do not consent
- Wisdom shouts in the streets
- Turn to my reproof
A Willing Faith

“One thing is clear: for those who learn the deepest lessons – ones in which visions of one’s world and of one’s place in it are transformed – there is always a teacher whose purposes and passions ignite a student’s moral imagination.”
“But it is also clear that, in the end, it is the students who choose to learn from their teachers who experience this metamorphosis of moral meaning.”

Steven Garber, *The Fabric of Faithfulness*
A Community Faith

“Satan desires to have you alone.”
Community

Face-to-face
Side-by-side
Not virtual, real
A Consuming Faith

“... is the beginning of...”
A Consuming Faith

What grabs us by the “gut”?
A Consuming Faith

- Stones
- Stories
- Songs
- Celebrations
- Images
The Last Best Place