The secular university

THE DISMANTLING OF MORAL EDUCATION
HOW HIGHER EDUCATION REDUCED THE HUMAN IDENTITY

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The Christian university

1. Like God, we are also known through our multiple identities
2. Like God, we are to be excellent in those IDs (II Peter 1:
His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence [areté], by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, that through these you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of passion, and become partakers of the divine nature. For this very reason make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue [areté], and virtue with knowledge... 2 Peter 1:3-6 [RSV]
I. Christ-assumed EXCELLENCE

"It just happens organically."

Excellence is not achieved organically (e.g., marriage, $ or health stewardship, etc.)
II. Christ-Added

“...academic, spiritual, and professional.

“I aspire to see my students growing spiritually as well as intellectually.”

“Course objectives always include a relatively unmeasurable objective such as Students will grow in their appreciation of Jesus.”
Recent Baylor Nursing Faculty Examples*

- Praying with students
- Devotionals
- Prayers before exams
- PrayerWall (discussion boards)
- Incorporating scripture into discussions
- Incorporating scripture into emails
- Weekly announcements with scripture
- Sending Sympathy cards or cards of encouragement that have His Word
- Sharing Christian music videos
- Bible verses as exam passwords
- Sharing my faith journey openly and authentically
- Sending a student a video or audio of my prayer for them
- Role-modeling service
- Leading discussions on what it means to care for patients as a Christian nurse
- Working through ethical situations with students and patients through a Christian lens

*Slide courtesy of Prof. Marie Lindley
III. Christ-Animating excellence

Christ does not integrate faith and learning.

Christ brings to life and light all excellence, including academic excellence.
1. God and God’s Narrative

what the Christ+ approach lacks
A. Seeing themselves in God’s story

- Responding to God’s glory (e.g., “All I do is an act of worship.”)
- Responding to God’s call (e.g., “God has called me to teach”)
- Responding to God’s character (e.g., “God’s grace toward me motivates me”)

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B. Seeing Students in God’s Story
(as more than students)

**Creation Identities**
- In age Bearers
- Sacred/ of inherent worth/ dignity
- Children of God
- Equal
- God’s creation
- Stewards/ Gift

**Redemptive Identities**
- Brothers/Sisters in Christ
  - “I am challenged to mentor my students and to be open about my own spiritual life as I engage with them as brothers and sisters in Christ.”
- Fellow Servants/Servant Leaders

**Fallen Id:** Sinners (e.g., student affairs)
Helping Students see their place in the story

A possible syllabus statement:

"I want to remind you that your worth and value as a person does not depend upon your grades, or what you, your parents or profs think of your grades. It depends upon the reality that you are made in God’s image with intrinsic worth."
C. See your discipline in God’s story

1. What about your discipline reflects God’s good creation?
2. What is fallen about your discipline?
3. How has it been redemptive? How can you continue to redeem it?
4. What would it look like in the Kingdom of God?