

Characteristics of Christian Scholars and Scholarship
Based on a Biblical Worldview©

1. Christian scholars are **motivated** by a love for truth, the glory of God, and the edification of the *ecclesia* (church) and the *polis* (city/common good).
2. Christian scholars **scrutinize** the underlying worldview, philosophical assumptions dominating their disciplines, especially those of metaphysical and methodological naturalism.
3. Christian scholars grasp **fundamental Christian assumptions** about life and reality and work them out in the methodological, theoretical, and practical aspects of their disciplines.
4. Christian scholars are practitioners of a biblically-based set of **moral virtues** that establish the spiritual foundation for their scholarship (faith, hope, love, courage, justice, temperance, prudence, humble, empathetic, gentle, righteous, merciful, pure, peaceful, and persecutable for the sake of the kingdom).
5. Christian scholars are practitioners of a biblically-based set of **intellectual virtues** that govern the exercise of their scholarship (see Appendix A).
6. Christian scholars are practitioners of a biblically-based set of **intellectual and spiritual disciplines** that facilitate the practice of their scholarship (solitude, silence, prayer, fasting, walking, meditating, thinking, pondering, reading).
7. Christian scholars **learn from non-Christian scholars** and sources in order to re-member truth (that is, reunite it) on the basis of common grace and the classic thesis that all truth is God's truth, all goodness is God's goodness, and all beauty is God's beauty.
8. Christian scholars offer robust, methodologically sophisticated, content rich **critiques of non-Christian scholars and sources** when they deviate from truth of Scripture and its implications, or from the sound practices of good scholarship.
9. Christian scholars offer **truer, better, wiser, more beautiful and more creative theories and practices** in place of the erroneous and misguided notions of the non-Christian thinkers they have criticized.
10. Christian scholars **do what they know**, behave according to their beliefs, obey what they hear, practice their theories, walk their incessant talk, all in recognition of the ethical implications of their epistemologies.

11. Christian scholars are **doxological in character**, worshipping God in and through their studies, seeing their work as a calling and ministry, recognizing the mystery and power of God in the content of their disciplines, and offering their services for God's glory and the good of others.

Appendix : Intellectual Virtues

I. Acquisition Virtues: Passion for the Truth

Inquisitiveness
Curiosity
Teachableness
Persistence
Humility

II. Logical Virtues: Passion for Cognitive Ability

Clarity
Accuracy
Precision
Relevance
Depth
Breadth
Consistency
Significance
Equity
Humility

III. Maintenance Virtues: Passion for Consistency

Perseverance
Courage
Constancy
Tenacity
Patience
Humility

IV. Application Virtues: Passion for Holiness

Desire to do what one knows
Love
Fortitude
Integrity
Humility

V. Communication or Rhetorical Virtues: Compassion for Others

Clarity of expression
Orderliness of presentation
Aptness of illustration
Humility

—Adapted from Jay Wood, *Epistemology: Becoming Intellectually Virtuous*, IVP, 1998; James Sire, *Habits of the Mind*, IVP, 2000.