

From Dogma to Understanding

“Values & Internationalism”

Dr. Thomas Penland, Mr. Ken Gunther, and Mr. Darren Price
Taejon Christian International School & Gyeonggi Suwon International
School (Korea)

Hanoi, Vietnam

Introductions

Dr. Thomas J. Penland

- Headmaster of Taejon Christian International School (TCIS) & Gyeonggi Suwon International School (GSIS)

Mr. Ken Gunther

- IB Diploma Program Coordinator at TCIS
- Science and computer teacher

Mr. Darren Price

- Director of School Improvement at TCIS & GSIS
- Social studies and TOK teacher

Who are you?

(Name, Job Title/Position, School, Length/type of experience with IB, Interest in this session)

Getting started...

Question #1: What does the IB bring to a faith-based school?

Question #2: What does the faith-based school bring to the IB?

Dogma vs. Understanding

Dogma:

- If you refer to a belief or a system of beliefs as dogma, you are criticizing it for expecting people to accept that it is true, without questioning it

– Collins Cobuild English Dictionary

- An authoritative principle, belief, or statement of ideas or opinion, especially one considered to be absolutely true.

-The American Heritage® Dictionary

“In religion, as in war and everything else, comfort is the one thing you cannot get by looking for it. If you look for the truth, you may find comfort in the end: If you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth—only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin with and, in the end, despair.”

-C. S. Lewis

Mere Christianity (1952, p. 39)

Truth never damages a cause that is just.

-Gandhi

Nothing is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

One who learns without thinking is lost; one who thinks without learning is in great danger.

-Confucius

“You do not have to sit outside in the dark. If, however, you want to look at the stars, you will find that darkness is required. The stars neither require it or demand it.”

-Annie Dilliard
(as quoted by Philip Yancey)

Dogma vs. Understanding

Dogma:

- Criticizing people for accepting it as true without questioning it
 - Collins Cobuild English Dictionary

Understanding:

- If you have an understanding of something, you know how it works or know what it means
- You say you understand something when you know why or how it happens
 - Collins Cobuild English Dictionary
- To perceive and comprehend the nature and significance of; grasp
 - The American Heritage® Dictionary

Six Facets of *Understanding*: explain, interpret, apply, perspective, empathize, and self-knowledge.

“The facets reflect the different connotations of understanding, yet a complete and mature understanding ideally involves the more or less full development of all six kinds of understanding.”

-Jay McTighe & Grant Wiggins
Understanding by Design Handbook (p. 10)

When you know a thing, to recognise that you know it;
and when you do not know a thing, to recognise that
you do not know it. That is knowledge”.

-Confucius

Testing the reliability of objects of faith is rational and
certainly advisable. Wisdom leads us to investigate and
know the true facts of any object of our faith. If a clock
is wrong, we adjust it. It is the sensible thing to do.

-Paul E. Little

Know Why You Believe: Connecting Faith and Reason (2003)

“Truth is beautiful, without doubt; but so are lies.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Doubt is an uneasy and dissatisfied state from which we struggle to free ourselves and pass into the state of belief; while the latter is a calm and satisfactory state which we do not wish to avoid, or to change to a belief in anything else. On the contrary, we cling tenaciously, not merely to believing, but to believing just what we do believe.”

-Charles Sanders Peirce

IBO Mission Statement

“...These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.”

- Is there a *point of arrival* where we stop asking questions?

Drawing some conclusions...

- Belief in absolute truth \neq Dogma
 - If and only if you are willing to...
 - Rationally question and examine the evidence for and against what you believe to be absolutely true
 - Examine aspects of your belief if contradictory evidence is found
 - Dissect and prioritize what you consider to be true in relation to your theology (some religiously accepted truths are underpinnings of a theological faith and some are not)
 - Truth is truth...
- Agreement is not necessary for understanding.
- Teaching *understanding* is a life skill.

IB Learner Profile

Which IB Learner Profile descriptors will illicit the most debate in a faith-based school?

Where we started...

Question #1: What does the IB bring to a faith-based school?

Question #2: What does the faith-based school bring to the IB?

Your Questions...

Contact Information

Taejon Christian International School

<http://www.tcis.or.kr>

Gyeonggi Suwon International School

<http://www.gsis.sc.kr>

Dr. Thomas Penland—hdmst@tcis.or.kr

Mr. Ken Gunther—guntherk@tcis.or.kr

Mr. Darren Price—priced@tcis.or.kr

From Dogma to Understanding

“Values & Internationalism”

Dr. Thomas Penland, Mr. Ken Gunther, and Mr. Darren Price
Taejon Christian International School & Gyeonggi Suwon International
School (Korea)

Hanoi, Vietnam

Introductions

Dr. Thomas J. Penland

- Headmaster of Taejon Christian International School (TCIS) & Gyeonggi Suwon International School (GSIS)

Mr. Ken Gunther

- IB Diploma Program Coordinator at TCIS
- Science and computer teacher

Mr. Darren Price

- Director of School Improvement at TCIS & GSIS
- Social studies and TOK teacher

Who are you?

(Name, Job Title/Position, School, Length/type of experience with IB, Interest in this session)

Getting started...

Question #1: What does the IB bring to a faith-based school?

Question #2: What does the faith-based school bring to the IB?

Dogma vs. Understanding

Dogma:

- If you refer to a belief or a system of beliefs as dogma, you are criticizing it for expecting people to accept that it is true, without questioning it
- Collins Cobuild English Dictionary
- An authoritative principle, belief, or statement of ideas or opinion, especially one considered to be absolutely true.
-The American Heritage® Dictionary

“In religion, as in war and everything else, comfort is the one thing you cannot get by looking for it. If you look for the truth, you may find comfort in the end: If you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth—only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin with and, in the end, despair.”

-C. S. Lewis
Mere Christianity (1952, p. 39)

Truth never damages a cause that is just.

-Gandhi

Nothing is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

One who learns without thinking is lost; one who thinks without learning is in great danger.

-Confucius

“You do not have to sit outside in the dark. If, however, you want to look at the stars, you will find that darkness is required. The stars neither require it or demand it.”

-Annie Dillard
(as quoted by Philip Yancey)

Dogma vs. Understanding

Dogma:

- Criticizing people for accepting it as true without questioning it
- Collins Cobuild English Dictionary

Understanding:

- If you have an understanding of something, you know how it works or know what it means
- You say you understand something when you know why or how it happens
- Collins Cobuild English Dictionary
- To perceive and comprehend the nature and significance of; grasp
-The American Heritage® Dictionary

Six Facets of *Understanding*: explain, interpret, apply, perspective, empathize, and self-knowledge.

“The facets reflect the different connotations of understanding, yet a complete and mature understanding ideally involves the more or less full development of all six kinds of understanding.”

-Jay McTighe & Grant Wiggins
Understanding by Design Handbook (p. 10)

When you know a thing, to recognise that you know it; and when you do not know a thing, to recognise that you do not know it. That is knowledge”.

-Confucius

Testing the reliability of objects of faith is rational and certainly advisable. Wisdom leads us to investigate and know the true facts of any object of our faith. If a clock is wrong, we adjust it. It is the sensible thing to do.

-Paul E. Little
Know Why You Believe: Connecting Faith and Reason (2003)

“Truth is beautiful, without doubt; but so are lies.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Doubt is an uneasy and dissatisfied state from which we struggle to free ourselves and pass into the state of belief; while the latter is a calm and satisfactory state which we do not wish to avoid, or to change to a belief in anything else. On the contrary, we cling tenaciously, not merely to believing, but to believing just what we do believe.”

-Charles Sanders Peirce

IBO Mission Statement

“...These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.”

- Is there a *point of arrival* where we stop asking questions?

Drawing some conclusions...

- Belief in absolute truth \neq Dogma
 - If and only if you are willing to...
 - Rationally question and examine the evidence for and against what you believe to be absolutely true
 - Examine aspects of your belief if contradictory evidence is found
 - Dissect and prioritize what you consider to be true in relation to your theology (some religiously accepted truths are underpinnings of a theological faith and some are not)
 - Truth is truth...
- Agreement is not necessary for understanding.
- Teaching *understanding* is a life skill.

IB Learner Profile

Which IB Learner Profile descriptors will illicit the most debate in a faith-based school?

Where we started...

Question #1: What does the IB bring to a faith-based school?

Question #2: What does the faith-based school bring to the IB?

Your Questions...

Contact Information

Taejon Christian International School

<http://www.tcis.or.kr>

Gyeonggi Suwon International School

<http://www.gsis.sc.kr>

Dr. Thomas Penland—hdmst@tcis.or.kr

Mr. Ken Gunther—guntherk@tcis.or.kr

Mr. Darren Price—priced@tcis.or.kr

TOK Diagram

