

FOUNDATIONS OF CLASSICAL LANGUAGE

Philosophy

Language is the conventional use of signs and symbols to communicate information and ideas between rational beings. The coherence and consistency of language reflects the inherent rationality of God Himself and of men created in His image. God has created man with the ability to abstract ideas through language. Vocabulary, grammar, and syntax, more than being a collection of unrelated rules, cause language to adhere in systematic wholeness and give to it communicative power. These components of language are the raw materials of the human mind: they enable us to speak, listen, write, read, think, and communicate. It is through this deductive ability that man creates, builds and formulates culture, thus fulfilling God's Dominion Mandate and Christ's Great Commission that we disciple the nations until the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.

The study of Classical Languages and Literature not only allows entry into the thought forms of other cultures, but also enhances our understanding of, and appreciation for, our native language and culture. We thus recognize that language and literature not only embody analytical thought processes essential to the Trivium, but they also possess an integral link to cultural development. Students move from the accumulation of key facts (Grammar) to critical analysis of connections and principles (Dialectic), and finally to synthesis of information and ideas into persuasive presentation (Rhetoric).

The purpose of the study of Classical Languages and Literature is to communicate with God through orderly thought and to serve God by creating a Christian culture. Therefore, we teach for life change: to take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Classical Language Department Goals

1. Recall grammatical constructions and their uses.
2. Identify vocabulary and English derivatives.
3. Translate simple and complex grammatical constructions.
4. Read primary source documents for comprehension.
5. Interpret and analyze cultural values of Classical Antiquity from primary source readings.
6. Evaluate the culture of Classical Antiquity according to Biblical standards.