

A Place to Stand, a Place of Refuge:

The Adventures and Consolations of a Christian Academic

Faith, Learning and Vocation Seminar March 3rd
Angus Menuge, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy

I. Introduction.

In the secular academy, but not *of* it (John 17 applied).

II. The Framework.

Niebuhr's 5 models applied to education.

- A. Christ Against Culture.
- B. Christ Of Culture.
- C. Christ and Culture in Synthesis.
- D. Christ the Transformer of Culture.
- E. Christ and Culture in Dialogue.

III. How the dialogue model works.

- Develop understanding of both Christian worldview and secular theories together.
- Avoids pious piffle.
- Avoids burning down straw men.
- Arduous, respectful, ongoing engagement: salt and light in the academy.

IV. A Place to Stand.

- Critical distance: stand on the eternal and the ultimate.
- Allows searching evaluation of world's best views as temporal and penultimate.
- Christian skepticism (Chesterton: first wild doubts of doubt).
- Fights cognitive idolatry of absolutizing the relative.
- Exposes cognitive dissonance and intellectual imperialism.

V. Some examples.

- A. The Rise of Modern Science.
- B. Is Religion a Delusion?
- C. Human Rights.
- D. The Rise of Christian Philosophy.

VI. A Place of Refuge.

- A sure hope and a strong community.
- The "mutual conversation and consolation of the brethren."
- We stand on Christ.

VII. Conclusion.