

Is Your School CC in a PC World?

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Back in the day, I was encouraged by my teachers to take a typing class. I guess that maybe “encouraged” would be putting it too mildly. Essentially I was told that either my writing skills needed to improve or I should take the typing class, because if something was not done, the teachers were not prepared to mark my essays and reports because of my poor penmanship. Hence, I ended up taking typing in my Grade 10 year.



How the world has changed over the decades since then. Today there are no more typing classes; they are now called Keyboarding. Computers have over these years revolutionized our way of life. The first time I came across the abbreviation PC, it was in reference to “personal computers”; now those initials have even taken on greater meaning as our society has changed, and we are required to be “politically correct.”

We live in a world where political correctness **MUST** be obeyed. One must be careful when referring to minority groups for fear of mis-speaking and using inappropriate terminology. People may be offended by a reference to “Christmas” rather than the “Holiday” or “Festive” season. Recently I received a forwarded e-mail detailing how a group from our church was not able to set up a booth at a health fair due to our church’s stance on homosexuality. The organization agreed that Adventists have done a lot of good promoting healthy lifestyles, but that members of the gay and lesbian community might not feel comfortable attending an event where a participating group was openly opposed to their lifestyle.

Thus we find ourselves expending a lot of time and energy to be PC, and it is an ever-changing landscape. What might be politically correct this week will not be PC next week. Being sensitive to others is not a bad thing. As Christians we need to be as politically correct as possible. It is pretty much the example that Jesus gave us: Caring for people in a way that helps them and makes them feel good about who they are, as well as helping them to identify who they are in relation to God. That is why we not only need to be PC, but we also need to be what I like to refer to as “CC.”

What is being CC? When I took my typing class way back when, “cc” was the notation that we would put on a letter we typed when we wanted to show that we were sending a “carbon copy,” or exact duplicate of the letter, to someone else. Over time that notation changed to “xc” as Xerox technology became widely used, and again morphed into “pc” (there it is again in yet another use!) for “photocopy” as copy technology changed yet again. For me today, “CC” has two meanings

The first is being “Christ Centered.” We can be as PC as we want, but it really doesn’t mean a thing, unless we are also Christ Centered. This is not just in reference to our personal lives, but that is where it needs to start. If we expect our schools to be Christ Centered institutions, then

we as individuals must be Christ Centered. In the New Testament, Jesus talks about how you are able to identify trees by their fruit. Ultimately in His example, a good tree will produce good fruit, and of course the only way that this happens is if the tree is nurtured and is therefore healthy. If we extend Jesus' analogy to schools, it means that to have Christ Centered schools, we have to be Christ Centered ourselves in our personal lives. In that way we are able to contribute to a Christ Centered atmosphere. Putting Christ first in our schools means that we focus on His love and His methods when we are working with our students each day we have them with us.

The second use of the CC term is "Child Centered." Is your school a Child Centered environment? In other words, do the decisions that you make reflect the needs of the students more than other factors that may negatively impact your ability to meet those needs? At the end of the day, we need our schools to be places where the needs of the children are paramount, and everything that we do is attempting to assist them in their educational endeavours. We need to evaluate and re-evaluate what it is we are doing in light of this, and remove all of those things that hamper us in meeting the needs of the students that God has entrusted to our care. Our schools exist for the sole purpose of providing a Christ Centered education to these students in a nurturing environment where every student feels cared for and cared about by the teachers and staff who are there to serve them. This is where a Christ Centered education meets a Child Centered environment.

Recognizing this, we must ask ourselves one central question before making any decision, and then evaluate the implementation of our plans based on the response: ***How will this (activity, lesson, worksheet, project, assignment, game, video, lecture, fieldtrip, class, building, discussion, topic) bring my students closer to their educational goals and Jesus?*** If we want our schools to make the difference that they are called to make in this world, this is where we start. It does not matter how PC we may be; if we are not CC in these ways, then our endeavours will not be effective, particularly in the ways we are wanting them to be.

Ellen White, in *Ministry of Healing*, says "The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago – a revelation of Christ" (p.143). As Christian teachers, when we are Christ Centered, we are able to bring that personal relationship that we have to our school each and every day. By developing those personal relationships with our students, we are able to impart that "revelation" of Christ to our students and their parents. Our schools can thereby become those spiritual centers of influence in our communities, touching countless lives on a daily basis.

When it comes to the practicality of being a Child Centered institution, Ellen White continues in the next paragraph to say, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people" (p.143). The method that Christ used put people and their needs front and center. "The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me'" (p.143).

By implementing Christ's method, we will have the greatest success in helping our students. Being Christ Centered and Child Centered will provide for us the greatest avenue of assisting our students to be the best they can be, as well as helping them to discover their Saviour. And you know what? It even makes us Politically Correct.