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 sounds 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.

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**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