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## The Principle Approach to Learning America's Christian History, Education, and Government

The Principle Approach® has been called "reflective teaching and learning." It is America's historic method of Biblical reasoning which places the Truths (or principles) of God's Word at the heart of education. Each subject is predicated upon God's Biblical principles and students are taught to think and reason from principles and leading ideas using **The Notebook Method** to *Research, Reason, Relate, and Record*.

The Principle Approach was rediscovered and restored to twentieth century American Christian education by the Foundation for American Christian Education (FACE) co-founder, **Rosalie Slater**, who identified seven principles of American Christian history and government in her foundational book, *Teaching and Learning America's Christian History: The Principle Approach*.

Seven Principles of America's Christian History and Government:

- God's Principle of Individuality:**  
Everything in God's universe reveals His infinity and diversity. Each person is a unique creation of God, designed to express the nature of Christ individually in society. Parents and teachers should cultivate the full potential of Christ in every child.
- The Christian Principle of Self-Government:**  
In order to have true liberty, man must be governed internally by the Spirit of God rather than by external forces. Government is first individual, then extends to the home, church, and the community. This principle of self-government is God ruling internally from the heart of the individual.
- America's Heritage of Christian Character:**  
The image of God engraved upon the individual within brings dominion and change to his external environment. The model of Christian character is the Pilgrim character. Becoming accountable for one's learning and productivity is the fruit of Christian character.
- "Conscience Is the Most Sacred of All Property" (James Madison):**  
God requires faithful stewardship of all His gifts, especially the internal property of conscience. This is a tool for self-government as each child learns the revelation of consent. Each individual governs his life through the voluntary consent to do right or wrong.
- The Christian Form of Our Government:**  
The divine flow of spiritual power and force in a Christian Constitutional Republic begins with self-governing individuals, whose God-given rights are protected by laws established by their elected representatives. Proper government requires a balance of internal power and its external form as seen in the separation of powers and its dual form with checks and balances. The Christian form of our government finds its source in the Holy Bible, "the American political textbook."
- How the Seed of Local Self-Government Is Planted:**  
Christian self-government begins with salvation and education in God's Law and Love, and flows in governing oneself, one's home, church, and community. "Liberty is an individual responsibility..." (Samuel Adams)
- The Christian Principle of American Political Union:**  
Internal agreement or unity, which is invisible, produces a voluntary external union, which is visible in the spheres of government, economics, and home and community life. Before two or more individuals can act effectively together, they must first be united in spirit, in their purposes, and in their convictions.

Why is the Principle Approach Unique?

The Principle Approach is a **philosophy and method of education** based upon Biblical reasoning and a Biblical, Christian worldview which requires considering and pondering the purpose of everything in God's universe. Such reflection helps to prepare oneself for the challenge of self-discipline and self-education that is so uniquely a part of the Principle Approach.

Principle Approach Education:

- Is characterized by the supremacy of the Bible and its teaching methodology in all instruction.
- Applies Biblical principles in scholarship, reasoning, character formation.

and developing Christian self-government.

- Acknowledges America's Christian history (Christ, His Story) and Biblical form of government, teaching them in every subject.
- Uses Webster's 1828 *Dictionary* to provide the vocabulary of liberty in learning that is consistent with Biblical truth.
- Acknowledges **parents** as those mandated by God for the education of their children and helps form homes and schools into communities of learning.
- Values the worth and dignity of each student and nurtures each one to achieve his fullest potential in Christ.
- Cultivates the teacher to be the "living textbook."
- Employs a "**Biblical-classical**," curriculum.
- Acknowledges individual learning styles and aptitude.
- Produces a **Biblical Christian worldview**.
- Holds the student accountable for his learning.
- Places the responsibility of the character and preservation of our Republic upon the parent and **educator** by demonstrating the consistent classroom government and self-government that respond to the admonition of America's founding father, Samuel Adams, "to teach our little boys and girls the exalted virtues of the Christian system and the art of self-government." (Boston, 1790)

What Distinguishes a **Principle Approach School** from Any Other?

- Acknowledging America's Christian history and Biblical form of government.
- Teaching and learning America's Christian history in every subject through its Biblical principles of government and education.
- Practicing The Principle Approach as a way of life—of Biblical living—in scholarship, character formation, and the art of self-government.
- **Training teachers** whose lives and scholarship become a living textbook to their students, cultivating a love of learning, and inspiring leadership and service.
- A curriculum of distinct subjects in classical learning unified by Biblical principles and a Providential history framework with a **tutorial emphasis**.
- Students nurtured in God's Word and the Christian idea of the child.
- Families forming a community of learning in bringing their children to the fullest expression of their value in Christ.

FACE Resources for Implementing the Principle Approach

Following is a list of books, seminars and curricula you can use to implement the Principle Approach in your school or homeschool.

- **The Noah Plan®**, the complete educational program for teaching and learning The Principle Approach. (Begin with *The Self-Directed Study*.)
- Training through FACE's **Foundations or Applications courses**
- **The Noah Plan Academy** Teacher Training on DVD
- *Teaching and Learning America's Christian History: The Principle Approach*, Rosalie J. Slater
- *The Christian History of the Constitution of the United States of America Vol I: Christian Self-Government*, Verna M. Hall
- The **Webster's 1828 Dictionary**

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P.O. Box 9588 - Chesapeake, VA 23321-9588

Phone: 800.352.3223 • Fax: 757.488.5593 • web: [www.face.net](http://www.face.net) • E-mail: [info1828@face.net](mailto:info1828@face.net)

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