

Chapter 19

Theme:

Clarify Your Core

Single Best Quote:

“No matter what others want us to do, we must focus on what is right for our students.”

Points:

1. Every teacher is unique. Every class is different. But, we have much in common because it is the teacher’s core beliefs that guide their work.
 - a. Many things have come down through the years that were:
 - i. Pointless
 - ii. Without true educational focus
 - iii. Not worth our effort
 - b. Example: Lesson Plans – needed to be turned in every week. Yet, the teacher’s time was actually better spent preparing for class instead of writing about it.
 - i. As a shop teacher I would write “W.O.P.” on all the periods for all the days and turn it in to the principal’s office every Monday morning because what we did in class was “**Work On Projects**”.
 - ii. As a shop teacher my time was spent picking up supplies, detailing construction plans for houses we were building in the community and individual projects for students, fixing machinery, cutting/preparing supplies. Lesson Plans were nothing more than a bone I threw the administration until they finally realized there was never any meat on that bone!
 - iii. Nice to see Whitaker use this example of Lesson Plans.
Ha! Ha! Ha! 35 years later I am justified in an educational book used for professional development that once shoved the importance of Lesson Plans being turned in early Monday morning!
 - iv. This is the point of the chapter! Know your core values. Understand what you believe in. Do not fail to do what you know is right simply because of some empty trend or worthless tradition. Indeed, this can be a lonely place. In fact, it can get you written up and your name put in a file as a “problem teacher” when in reality you are modeling one of the similarities that Whitaker identifies with a great teacher.
2. Teaching is an amazing profession that generates its own energy.
3. No matter what others want we need to do what is right (based on our core.)
4. Whitaker does not present a cookie-cutter model in this book, but he does identify some key similarities of GREATNESS!

Self-evaluation and application as a:

- **Shop teacher** –
- **Bible teacher** –
- **Parent** –
- **Person** –

Questions/Criticisms/Evaluations/Comments of Whitaker’s presentation or perspective: