



Four Ways That Our Educational Programs Exploit Information Technology to Fulfill the Great Commission.

The Covenant Network™ ("CN") exploits information technology to fulfill the Great Commission! Envision believers empowered with the best resources for learning about all that Christ has commanded. Imagine local and global communities where people quest for harmony by taking all thoughts captive and making them obedient to the Lord's teachings. In at least four ways, CN helps us maximize effectiveness in realizing these ideals.

First, CN can help church members access to the best education based on our Lord's commands. From a home computer or from a terminal at our [CN Coffee House™](#), students can log onto the CN "home page" to see pictures of an impressive virtual campus. By clicking on icons, anyone can tour the schools of business, education, government, history, law, literature, social work, theology, etc. Each academic department can offer a long list of classes. Leading scholars committed to True Truth can make down-loadable video and audio recordings of their lectures available for a nominal charge. These can be viewed on a multi-media computer by students auditing classes or working on a degree. During the start-up phase, we can provide valuable content by linking to materials developed by [Summit Ministries](#), [Probe Ministries](#), [FreeBooks.com](#), and other organizations that provide well-reasoned materials on the Biblical Worldview.

Second, CN can help Christians understand that relativistic secular education undermines our faith. Most Christians receive their elementary, secondary, college, and graduate schooling at state institutions that have banned display of the 10 Commandments. By failing to emphasize education premised on God's moral absolutes, we foster insidious relativism. CN promotes awareness of this problem during discussions of ideas from writers like H. Blamires, author of *The Christian Mind*. He writes: "Christianity is emasculated of its intellectual relevance. It remains a vehicle of spiritual and moral guidance at the individual level perhaps; at the communal level it is little more than an expression of sentimentalized togetherness. The mental secularization of Christians means that nowadays we meet only as worshipping beings and as moral beings, not as thinking beings. . . . We twentieth-century Christians have chosen the way of compromise. We withdraw our Christian consciousness from the fields of public, commercial, and social life. When we enter these fields we are compelled to accept for purposes of discussion the secular frame of reference . . ."

Third, CN can bring together scholars who have a strong commitment to the frame of reference taught by Jesus. People who pursue education through the Covenant Network (and its affiliated churches) can deepen their Biblical understanding while also developing rich friendships with fellow believers who share common pursuits. Anyone interested in Christian thinking can participate in one of our Bible studies or book clubs and meet kindred spirits who share a desire to learn from great Christian minds. Students can participate in computerized matchmaking to find tutors or peers who offer mutual support while pursuing goals based on the Biblical worldview.

Members of the community can encourage and challenge one another during in-person or on-line discussions about any academic topic. Degree candidates may learn only from teachers who submit to an accreditation process sponsored by a church denomination that affirms a well-reasoned statement of faith. Such personalized, comprehensive, and rigorous training may make CN the preferred educational institution for all people who seek to love God with their hearts, souls, *and minds*.

Fourth, CN start-up costs can be very low. Creating the first CN "cyber university" web site should cost only \$2,500. We may incur additional expenses to rent or acquire a building that will house students, provide a site for the first CN [Coffee House™](#), and perhaps include classrooms for some types of tutoring on the Biblical worldview. The students who live at this facility may pay rent or provide assistance with maintaining either the building or the CN web page. Both the CN property and the internet page can provide an inviting "home" where church members unite to learn how Biblical teachings apply to all aspects of life. For these and many other reasons, the Covenant Network has an unprecedented opportunity to exploit information technology to fulfill the Great Commission!

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tim@covenant.net