The ‘Pedagogy of God’, and its relevance to Christian formation: A case study within the Church of Ireland.

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**Abstract**

This research begins by examining perspectives on spiritual formation before moving to provide an initial consideration of pedagogy. This includes a consideration of how God can infuse his grace into lifelong learners. This infusion can be instant or occur over a period of time.

The research question conflates the teaching approaches utilized by God with factors which influence the formation of individuals into the likeness of Christ. The research question guiding this research is, “How can a knowledge of the pedagogy of God be of use in Christian formation.”

The research adopts a grounded approach that begins by considering lifelong learning and relevant supporting theories. This is necessary in establishing some of the frameworks which God can reconfigure within believers. It is also argued that God can work alongside individuals during their lifelong learning.

The background of the theological concept of the pedagogy of God is discussed before identifying four characteristics drawn from Hosea Chapter 11. The pedagogy of God as revealed through the pedagogy of Jesus is then discussed through an exegesis of the Beatitudes contained in Matthew Chapter 5.

The pedagogy of the Holy Spirit is then debated, with reference to the interiorisation of God’s teaching. This is achieved through examination of the six titles for the Holy Spirit and the Paraclete sayings of John. 5

The reviewed literature is used to construct a qualitatively based questionnaire. This was distributed to a sample of six members of the internship parish and six other individuals from within the Church of Ireland. The results were analyzed and compared and ten recommendations made. Recommendations include addressing the decline in the attendance of children, encouragement of informal learning, and the establishment of fellowship groups and mentoring support. The study also affirms the role of Clergy and mothers in the pedagogical process.