



## **ACSI Position Statement on Recommended Reading**

(adopted by the FBA Governing Board March 2, 2012)

Seldom if ever is there a book published that any given reader would consider absolutely true, nor would the reader say about its author, "I agree with everything this author says or promotes." In light of this reality, ACSI believes that: (1) reading should be a discipline that is nurtured and developed into an ongoing and lifelong pursuit; (2) reading is critical to being an educated person, and in order to model the life of a reader, a person must be well read; (3) reading broadens perspective but can never diminish truth; (4) thoughtful reading allows the reader to screen ideas; (5) reading helps a person function in the world of ideas, and ideas do matter; and (6) reading informs and enhances leadership.

We at ACSI recognize that if we were to recommend only books with which every patron or constituent of this association were in total agreement, our recommended reading would probably consist of the Bible alone. And even then we would struggle to suggest the one uncontested version that could meet such criteria to make the list. Recognizing these limitations, we attempt to recommend an ongoing array of books that we believe will fit one, some, or all of the following descriptors:

- Professionally motivating
- Educationally enriching
- Spiritually uplifting
- Intellectually challenging
- Culturally informing
- Thought provoking
- Enlightening to academic content areas

Undoubtedly, this list of criteria is not complete—but it does at least hint at characteristics that would cause us to recommend a book. We do not attempt to recommend what readers should think, what they should absorb, what they should ignore, or what they should further question. We believe that thoughtful readers will be challenged to think deeply, introspectively, and discerningly. Anticipating that the point or direction or thesis of any given book will be quickly and simply identified by the title, a brief promo on the back cover, or the ardent commendation of a speaker, we would be quick to point out that authors may make blatant or subtle statements or implications that would not stand a biblical truth test. Our recommendation of a book does not imply endorsement of an author's worldview or belief system. We simply advise recognizing that not every writer worthy of reading embraces either a biblical worldview or a personal acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Still, depending on the topic, the content of the book or thesis may be enlightening, thought provoking, or any myriad of other ways challenging; if nothing more, it may offer a glimpse of what some are considering or promoting, thereby providing an enhanced view of our world and culture, including its threats and dangers.

Our intent in recommending works that may contain parts not embraceable by everyone is not to offend or to create division—rather it is to deepen and enrich the thinking of those who are engaged in Christian schooling, to strengthen weaknesses and to bolster strengths. We want to motivate a deeper pursuit of understanding about certain issues or topics, to bring understanding where it might not yet exist, to inform about broader perspectives. Above all, the intent is to challenge Christian school educators and help equip them as disciples of Jesus Christ to become the ultimate discipler for Jesus Christ in every aspect of living during every moment of every day—and to "take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5, NIV).

*We trust our teachers and know they are equipped to compare, contrast, and handle each selected book and any discussion that results from a Christian world view. By signing below, I understand and have read/accept the above position statement as it pertains to classroom reading/curriculum and agree to the book selections for subjects/classes. This agreement will remain in effect as long as the student(s) attends FBA.*

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Parent Signature

Student Signature

Date