

Thursday 9th September, 2021

Thanks so much for joining us at Christ College for Open Night 2021. We would have liked to welcome you to campus (and to share some supper from Beth, our caterer who is quickly reaching legendary status). I hope you will be able to join us in person some time in 2022.

This evening we welcome people from well outside the Metropolitan area. Being online removes geographical barriers, and we are especially glad to have you join us.

Open Night is our chance to put before you the case for studying at Christ College, or for encouraging others to study here.

That case has two parts. First, theological education is an important foundation for any ministry. Christian service and leadership flows from knowing God from his word and having a grasp of the gospel and how it applies to thought and life. A good theological education builds that. It also shapes students as disciples and missionaries, equipping them to engage people in our culture with the claims of Christ. Without a serious theological education, Christian ministry is on a shaky foundation.

The second part of the case is to answer the question “Why Christ College?”.

Christ College is *biblical*, we are committed to the authority of Scripture and to studying it in depth and applying it carefully. Christ, the Redeemer and Lord, is at the centre the Bible, so being biblical means we focus on him.

Christ College is *confessional*. We are committed to the Westminster Confession of Faith and we are convinced that it allows us to see further by standing on the shoulders of giants. We don't reinvent the Christian faith and life each generation, but receive a heritage which we treasure.

Christ College is *missional*, that is we are committed to God's mission of preaching the gospel, building the church and extending his kingdom. We aim to live that way, and to develop students who have a sacrificial commitment to God's mission. Our teaching is always designed to have a robust connection between serious theological reflection and thoughtful ministry practice.

We are delighted that our graduates are working in God's mission around Australia and the world. Finally, Christ College is *formational*. Our aim is for staff and students to become more like Christ.

Those commitments — biblical, confessional, missional and formational — are all reflected in the Graduate Attributes around which our courses are designed.

Christ for all of life.

Our challenge to you from tonight is to consider what ministry God is calling you to; and then to talk to us about how a Christ College theological education can help to prepare you for that.

If you are not in the market to study, we hope that you will pray for us and support our students and staff.

If you have any questions about the College, please contact me or any of our staff.

Blessings,



John McClean

Acting Principal