DEVELOPMENT OF A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR A K-12 CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL CURRICULUM

by

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The purpose of this dissertation has been the development of a conceptual framework for K-12 Christian school curricula. A plethora of Christian curricula and resource materials are available for Christian educators in the area of curriculum development. However, there is a lack of literature, both in the marketplace and in the scholarly realm, concerning the matter of conceptual frameworks for curriculum. Many of the existing frameworks for contemporary Christian curricula are not thoroughly based on Christian principles. Often the curricula have been guided by what can be called a Greek influence or at times have been based on a skewed view of Scripture. It appears that most Christian curriculum developers derive curriculum from a secular perspective on education and then secondarily integrate faith. The development of the conceptual framework in this dissertation has used a different approach. Following a systematic study of the Scriptures, Hebrew literature, and historical reviews of Christian education, a foundational biblical philosophy for Christian education has been developed. The developmental process of the framework has been guided by Nelson’s methodology for theory development. The conceptual framework that has been developed includes the philosophy that is the basis for the framework, lists the content that is to be covered, and covers the subjects in which the content is to be taught. The main goals of the conceptual framework are to build right relationship between God, fellow human beings, and creation.