

Characteristics of True Scholarship

1. The desire to learn, to acquire knowledge, to apprehend truth.
2. The possession of an average or better-than-average Intelligence Quotient, which capability would include at least the following aspects:
 - a. The capacity for adjustment
 - b. The ability to learn
 - c. The ability to think in terms of abstract ideas
3. The ability to think logically and analytically.
4. The willingness to remain open to other viewpoints and new ideas; to recognize the right of others to hold opinions which differ from our own, even as we expect others to recognize that right for ourselves; and to discuss opponents' views with them or with others without resorting to emotionalism, adamant dogmatism, name-labelling, the half-truth, expressed suspicion of deviationism, slander, or intimidation, all of which tactics imply that one's own views are final, absolute, immutable truth.
5. The desire to acquire information from original sources, rather than from translations, interpretations, condensations, or mere quotations. In most cases, this desire will result in an attempt to acquire a reading knowledge of those languages in which there exists a significant body of literature relevant to the area of study.
6. The determination to make a complete induction, by collecting all of the available data, rather than by selecting only the agreeable or supporting data.
7. The determination to follow a problem to its solution, or at least to the most probable working hypothesis, regardless of its agreement or disagreement with previous conclusions.
8. The willingness to revise previous conclusions, upon the discovery or presentation of new evidence sufficient to warrant such revision.
9. The ability to relate newly-acquired knowledge to previously-acquired knowledge.

True Christian Scholarship Includes All of the Attributes of True Scholarship, But Adds the Following:

10. The relating of all human knowledge and experience to the truth of the written Word of God, and the interpretation of all such knowledge and experience by the light of that truth.
11. The determination to reject any thought, concept, opinion, conclusion, or system contrary to the clear teaching of the Scriptures.