

Parker Palmer

Objective

To have a clear sense of the main arguments and metaphors Palmer uses in his book *To Know as We are Known*.

To prepare well for our class discussion.

Reading questions

1. What does Parker Palmer mean when he writes about “seeing with two eyes”?
2. According to Palmer, the origin of knowledge is: (a) love (b) truth (c) reality. Why does he make that claim?
3. Of the following, which would Palmer say are characteristic of truth?
 - (a) it can and must be objectively established
 - (b) it can be summed up in one name: Jesus Christ
 - (c) it is personal, and to be known in personal relationships
 - (d) it is communal
4. The disciplines of monastic learning included which of the following?
 - (a) the study of sacred texts
 - (b) harsh punishment for breaking rules
 - (c) prayer and contemplation
 - (d) gathering in community
5. Parker Palmer describes the teacher as:
 - (a) an expert who transfers information to people who do not yet have it
 - (b) a guide or coach who helps people to find and use accurate information
 - (c) a mediator between the knower and the known
6. The challenges of conventional classrooms include which of the following:
 - (a) a focus of study on someone else’s vision of reality
 - (b) an unwillingness to hold up one’s self for inspection
 - (c) a structured tendency to isolate knowers from each other
 - (d) intentional support for becoming manipulators of each other, rather than mutually responsible participants

- 7.** Which of the following are definitive of “personal knowing” in Palmer’s framework:
- (a) asserting that your own perspective on something is just as valid as someone else’s
 - (b) recognizing that each knower brings personal elements to an act of knowing
 - (c) knowledge that personifies the known
 - (d) the term does not apply to the study of nature and other inanimate objects
 - (e) this form of knowing is dangerously subjective
- 8.** Choose which of the following characteristics are found in effective learning spaces:
- (a) objectivity
 - (b) boundaries
 - (c) hospitality
 - (d) safety
 - (e) openness
- 9.** Parker Palmer’s primary definition of “to teach” is:
- (a) to give intelligence; to impact, as knowledge before the unknown
 - (b) to instruct by precept, example, or experience
 - (c) to create a space in which obedience to truth is practiced
- 10.** Disciplines of the academy that support Parker Palmer’s understanding of knowing and knowledge include:
- (a) competitive peer review
 - (b) attending only to authoritative voices
 - (c) becoming a student again
 - (d) teaching in a field outside of one’s own
- 11.** According to Parker Palmer, what disciplines best create conditions for prayer:
- (a) silence
 - (b) a well-honed intellect
 - (c) careful scripture study
 - (d) solitude