

**From “Mission Schools” to “Missional” Universities: A Tale of Korean CHE**  
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***Introduction***

1. Popularity of higher education: 83.8% of high school graduates go to HE
2. High contributions of CHE: 38.3% (61/159) of 4 year colleges and universities
3. Secularization of “mission school” and losing its distinctive identity and vision
4. Vision for “missional” CHE

***(I) Beginning of Modern Higher Education (1885/1924)***

1. The “mission schools” (that were established as a branch of missions)
2. *Seoul Imperial University* (1924)
3. The turbulent history of Korea: colonization, civil war, and ideological conflicts
4. Modernization, industrialization, and democratization
5. Three stages of CHE: (1) 1885-1945, (2) 1943-1970s, (3) 1980s-present

***(II) Current Statues of Korean CHE institutions***

1. High proportion of CHE (38.3%) in a religiously pluralistic country
2. Secularization of the prestigious “mission schools”
3. Government regulations and intervention
4. Theological colleges and new Christian universities

***(III) Making genuine Christian higher education***

1. Recognizing the importance of integral studies or integration of faith and learning
2. Broadening the concept of Christian higher education
4. Enhancing Christians’ sensitivity towards cultural changes
5. Coping with the nation’s educational crisis

***(IV) Mobilizing Community Resources***

1. Meager support for Christian education and theological and denominational barriers
2. Christian scholars scattered over various universities
3. Research centers and groups for integration of faith and academic learning
4. Christian publishers and academic journals.
5. Student bible study and evangelism groups

***Conclusion***

1. Need for a vision of “missional” CHE
2. Need for strategies for “missional” CHE
3. Working towards the development of Christian scholarship
4. Awaking and promoting the integral vision of Christian higher education in Korea

***Synopsis***

Christian higher education in “mission schools” had occupied significant role in the past. Now, it is facing serious challenges from secularization and are thus in danger of losing its distinctive identity and vision. My objective is to review the legacy, current challenges, and to project “missional” vision to transform Korean Christian higher education.