

Caroline Kniskern – Salutatorian Speech

Good evening students, families, friends, faculty, and staff. It is my honor to welcome you all to the graduation ceremony for the class of 2019. I would first like to begin by saying how proud I am of my senior class for making it this far. I have been with this class since 6th grade, and some of us have been together even longer. Together, we have grown from being timid freshman to confident young adults. During my time at Gilbert Christian, I have received an amazing education, which will undoubtedly help me excel in college and succeed in life. However, I have gained something far more important than knowledge in different subjects— I have learned to be confident in myself, and more importantly, in my faith.

Throughout my life, I have found myself constantly worrying about what other people think of me. As a matter of fact, it's kind of ironic, considering I've spent the last few days worrying about what people will think of me for giving this speech. However, I have accepted the reality that that I will never be perfect in everyone's eyes, and the only one whose opinion of me truly matters is God's. It is very important to hold God's opinion higher than everyone else's especially considering the fact that many of us are going to secular colleges where we will face judgement for sharing our faith. Proverbs 29:25 says, "It is dangerous to be concerned with what others think of you, but if you trust in the Lord, you are safe." People's opinions are changeable; one moment they praise you above all else, and the next moment everyone turns on you. Fortunately, God's opinion of us is unchanging. I have found that the key to being confident is disregarding worldly things that don't matter, and instead focusing on God's objective truth. So, class of 2019, my prayer for you is that you will remain steadfast in your faith, confident in your identity in Christ, and strive to please God rather than man. Thank you.