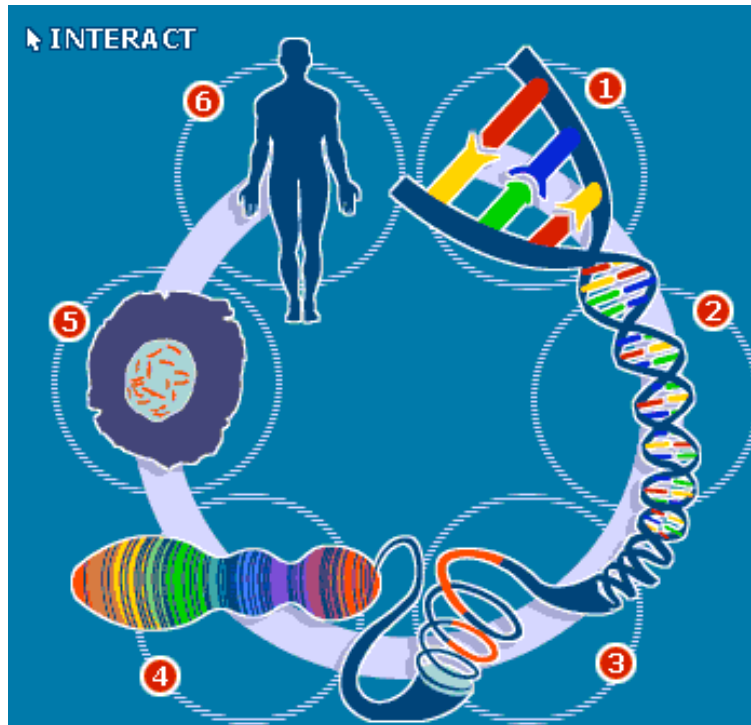


# The DNA of Evergreen Spiritual Genetics

*A condensed course describing the church , our identity in Christ &  
mission in the kingdom of God.*



## **The “Double Helix” of Our Church**

Worship

The Gospel Centered Life

Prayer Training

Mission & Fellowship

Virtue

## **Segment One = Worship**

### **The Vertical and the Horizontal**

The vertical aspect maintains God's voice as primary, his nature and acts as the essential focus.

The horizontal aspect maintains a corporate participation of worshippers, whose voice is responsive and mutually supportive and encouraging.

### **The Historical and the Cultural**

We continue the forms and content of the church in all epochs. We present and express timeless truth within the culture God has placed us.

### **The Public and the Private**

Corporate worship is a public event, God and his church on display in the world. Private worship is individual and contemplative; it is a dedication of all areas of life to the glory of God.

### **The Covenantal and the Missional**

Worship is the gathering of the people of God united to him through Jesus Christ, the covenant keeper.

Worship is the high point in proclaiming God and his kingdom in the world.

### **solī deo gloria!**

Worship is offered solely to the glory of God

## **Segment 2-3: The Gospel Centered Life**

**The gospel** = The declaration that God will restore all creation to its original glory. *“Behold, I am making all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment”* The Revelation of Jesus Christ 21:5-6

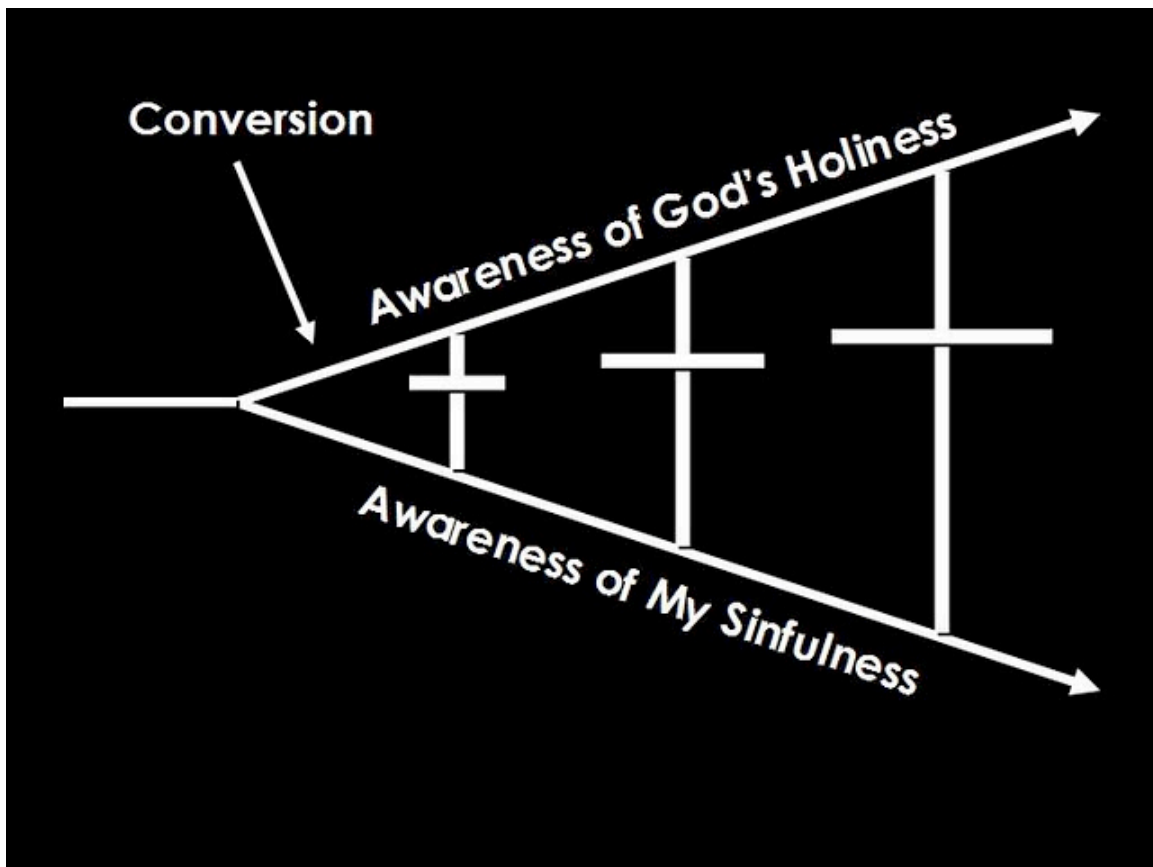
**The gospel** = The good news of Jesus’ death on the cross, which satisfied God’s wrath for sin and frees us from guilt, shame and death. *“Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”* Jesus, recorded in the Gospel of *Mark 10:45*

**The gospel** = The promise of new and eternal life made good in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. *“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”* Jesus, in the Gospel of *John 11:25-26*.

**The gospel** = Salvation from self, sin, death and the devil. *“I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of salvation to all those who believe..... There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!”* The Apostle Paul in *Romans 1:16; 8:1*

## **The Gospel Summarized**

“Through the person and work of Jesus Christ, God fully accomplishes salvation for us, rescuing us from judgment for sin into fellowship with him, and then restores the creation in which we can enjoy our new life together with him forever.” Tim Keller, Redeemer PCA in Manhattan



## **Segment Three - The Gospel Centered Life**

“repent and believe the gospel” Jesus in **Mark 1:15**

### **Faith & Repentance**

God’s Twin gifts freely given to us so that we might experience the gospel in mind and heart. Which gift is primary? Faith or repentance? The two are inseparable:

#### **Faith**

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” **Ephesians 2:8-9**

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” **Romans 10:17**

#### **Repentance**

Turn from sin & self to God

#### **5 Steps of Repentance**

Acknowledge that you have sinned against God. Confess forms of false repentance and selfish regret. Discern and repent of the underlying heart motivations that drive you to this sin. Receive God’s forgiveness by faith. Rely upon God’s power to turn from sin.

*Reminder:*

*The DNA of Evergreen = The Gospel changes everything, even me!*

## **More on Repentance**

“Our hearts are idol factories.” John Calvin

e.g. identifying the Heart Idols of the Surface Sin, Gossip:

The idol of approval

The idol of control

The idol of reputation

The idol of success

The idol of security

The idol of pleasure

The idol of knowledge

The idol of recognition

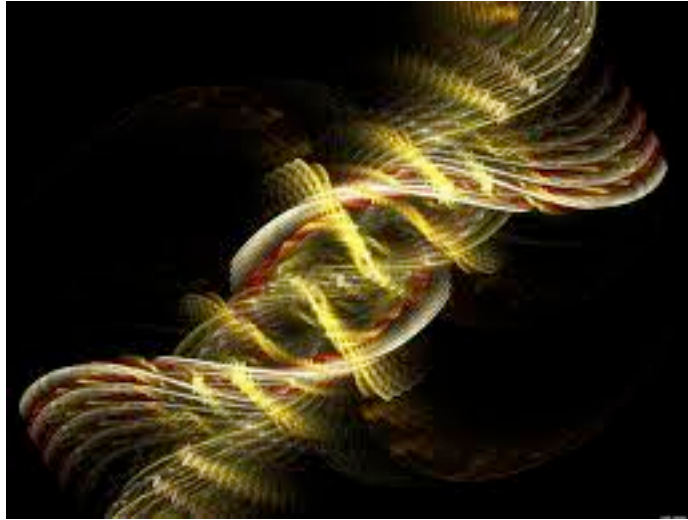
The idol of respect

## **The Ministry of Reconciliation**



The keys are in an “x” pattern as “Christ,” in Greek begins with an “X.” Christ is the key to reconciliation. There are two keys:  
Key One = Reconciliation to God (God must be reconciled to us and we must be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ)  
Key Two = Reconciliation to one another (Christ reconciles us to each other)

## Course Review



Worship  
The Gospel Centered Life  
Prayer Training  
Mission & Fellowship  
Virtue

### **Segment Four - Prayer Training**

**The Lord's Prayer: Each line is a rich topic of prayer**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name*

*Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*

*Give us this day our daily bread*

*Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors*

*Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one*

Pray, expanding each line of the Lord's Prayer:

Adoration of God

Expansion of the kingdom of God

Request for material & spiritual needs

Forgiveness

Protection in the spiritual battle

## **Segment Five - Prayer Training**

### **Our Failure to Pray**

*"Can you not watch with me for one hour?"*

(Remember the disciples falling asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane? It was not until the ascension of Jesus that the disciples began to pray fervently. 120 of them remained in an upper room praying for the coming Holy Spirit...)

### **What prevents us from praying?**

Physical & mental weakness

Lack of self-discipline

Lack of church leadership

Social & cultural awkwardness

The resistance of a sinful heart

Doubt

Fear

Distraction

Guilt

God already knows?

### **Let us Pray!**

For the world

For our community

For our church

For one another

### **Segment Six - Prayer Training**

#### **We Need the Holy Spirit**

With the disciples we pray for the Holy Spirit promised to us.

With the disciples, filled with the Spirit, we pray continually.

(Our prayer life is never perfect - remember the group praying for Peter's release, refusing to believe the girl who received Peter's knock at the door!)

### **Let Us Pray!**

Prayers of Faith = ask God to do "the impossible."

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving = Gratefully remember what God has done. God answers prayer.

### **Plan to Pray**

- 1) Set a daily time to pray as an individual and as a family
- 2) View corporate worship as a house of prayer
- 3) Participate as much as you are able in the ministry of prayer together with members of the church

## **Course Review:**

Worship

The Gospel Centered Life

Prayer Training

*Mission & Fellowship*

Virtue



### **Segments 7-10: Mission & Fellowship**

*...not "either/or" but "both/and"*

faith.....and.....practice

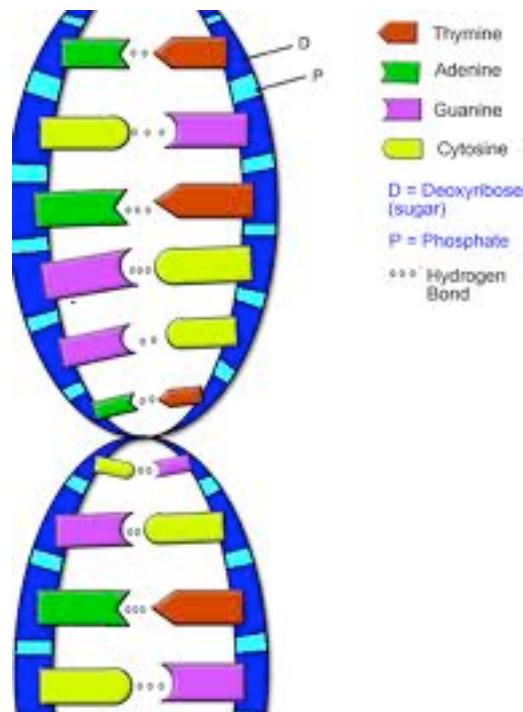
evangelism...&...edification

justification...&...sanctification

*mission.....and....fellowship*

## Segment 7 – Mission & Fellowship Go Together

**Acts 2:42-47** *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching & the fellowship, to the breaking of bread & the prayers. As we came upon every soul, & many wonders & signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together & had all things in common. They were selling their possessions & belongings & distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, attending the temple together & breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad & generous hearts, praising God & having favor with all the people. The Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*



## **Mission & Fellowship Go Together**

Fellowship equips us to be fruitful citizens of the kingdom of God.

Mission = adding to the number of our fellowship.

Fellowship as a biblical term = equipping the saints to do the work of the ministry for building up the body of Christ. (**Ephesians 4:12**)... as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (**Galatians 6:10**)

### **How to Do It:**

**Hospitality** = Share your home and heart as an expression of living the gospel; build relationships & share the gospel within conversation. Invite friends to worship with us. Hospitality - mixing Christians with unbelievers.

**Family** = Share the gospel with spouse and child, encourage & instruct them to be active members of Christ's Church.

**Good Deeds** = corporately use our service and funds to meet needs in our community. Connect with people in need.

## **Segment 8 Corporate Worship, Mission & Fellowship**

*Our expectation* = Every corporate worship gathering is a mix of believers and unbelievers

*Our welcome* = warm, real, and free of "in-house" jargon, proven in our extension of hospitality

*Our liturgy* = rich, complete, and gospel-centered

*Our sermons* = the gospel from the biblical text explicated and applied to believer & unbeliever

*Our challenge* = to invite others to join us

### **Family, Mission & Fellowship**

*Our expectation* = every family member embracing the gospel

*Our homes* = loving, secure space for doubts, questions, experiment, instruction, growth, discipline, dreams, open conversation, honesty, and service

*Our challenge* = family Bible study and prayer, forgiveness, peace, purity, tough love, encouragement, selflessness, transparency, kindness...

### **How to Share the Gospel with Children in Your Home**

- 1) Adults modeling repentance & forgiveness
- 2) The home, a warm, loving environment
- 3) Periodic family altars - prayer & Bible reading, with concise, clear gospel presentations complete with invitation to embrace the gospel
- 4) Adults asking children questions r.e. faith
- 5) Dinner conversations including matters of faith and practice
- 6) Regularity in corporate worship and Christian service
- 7) Presenting children to the elders unto profession of faith

## **Segment 9**

### **The Gospel is not Telling You How to be Like Me**

Be candid about your weakness, flaws, and sins.

Openly express your need of and complete trust in Jesus.

Make distinctions between religious morality and gospel driven obedience.

Welcome, encourage and serve others.

Lace your conversation w/ stories of Jesus and quote him appropriately.

Ask a lot of questions and listen.

Avoid trite Christian slogans, overused and sure to cut off conversation.

### **The Gospel = Atonement and Freedom**

Are you talking to a moralist?

Talk about atonement. The moralist must see his corruption and need of Christ's perfect righteousness. (true responsibility)

Are you talking to a libertine?

Talk about freedom. The libertine must see his bondage and need of Christ's liberation. (true freedom)

### **The Gospel and Apologetics**

Are you talking to a skeptic?

Apologetics punctuated w/ the gospel.

Are you talking to the hopeless?

Gospel punctuated w/ apologetics.

Best Apologetic Technique = Ask Questions about the other person's world view, then respond with a statement of your world view. (with believers and unbelievers)

### **Segment Ten - Mission and Fellowship Summary**

The Church is one of the more fertile fields for mission:

- 1) Study the Bible and share what you are learning with others;
- 2) Read apologetic literature and give it to others;
- 3) Build relationships within the fellowship of the church

### **Small Groups**

Leaders choose materials that would be good for believer & unbeliever alike.

Expect your group to include believers & unbelievers and think about your verbal contributions in the group with this dual audience in mind.

Ask more questions and don't talk or pray too long; allow for a balanced discourse.

Be warm, cordial, and winsome as you speak the truth in love.

Invite believers & unbelievers to join your group

### **Look for People on the Fringe of Our Gatherings**

- 1) Introduce yourself to visitors and people you do not know;
- 2) Invite guests to take free literature available at the church;
- 3) Linger for fellowship and invite others for extended fellowship in your home or offsite;
- 4) Be sensitive toward the shy and those in crisis;
- 5) Tell others about the ministries of our church.

## **Promote the Church**

- 1) Talk about your church using its name and showcasing what you like about it;
- 2) Give people helpful literature;
- 3) Invite friends to worship with us;
- 4) Pray for divine appointments;
- 5) Identify sites in the community that you frequent and build relationships.

## **Fishing Ponds =**

Corporate worship meetings

St. Stephen's Academy & your school sites

Coffee shops

Retail stores

Small groups

Athletic teams

Your neighborhood

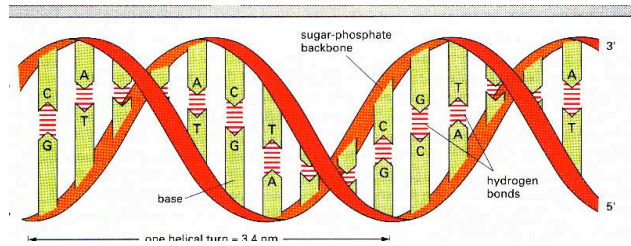
Special forums e.g. Rights & Responsibilities; The Religion

Forum

Your home

Your workplace

?



## Course Review:

Worship  
 The Gospel Centered Life  
 Prayer Training  
 Mission & Fellowship  
 Virtue

### Segments 11-12 : Virtue

*Different worldviews of virtue:*

“Virtues are acquired solely through endeavor; which rests wholly upon yourself.” Sidney Lanier (19th Century American musician & poet)

“Practice random acts of kindness & senseless acts of beauty.” Anne Herbert (20th Century American writer formerly of CoEvolution Review)

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...” The Apostle Paul (The chief of sinners)

**Have you ever heard someone say, “The Church is Full of Hypocrites!”**

**The Church’s response = “Thanks be to God!”**

The more the gospel is proclaimed, embraced and applied, the more hypocrites will find their way to church...

If it were said, "The hospital is full of sick people," would you think, "It must be a bad place?" or would you say, "Good! That's the purpose of the hospital: to help sick people become well."

The Church is a place for hypocrites (all of us) to grow spiritually.

### **Virtue - Our holy behavior despite our brokenness empowered by the Holy Spirit**

*"When I speak of growth in grace, I only mean increase in the degree, size, strength, vigour, and power of the graces which the Holy Spirit plants in a believer's heart. I hold that every one of those graces admits of growth, progress and increase. I hold that repentance, faith, hope, love, humility, zeal, courage, and the like may be little or great, strong or weak, vigorous or feeble and may vary greatly in the same man at different periods of his life. When I speak of a man growing in grace, I mean simply this: that his sense of sin is becoming deeper, his faith stronger, his hope brighter, his love more extensive, his spiritual mindedness more marked. He feels more of the power of godliness in his own heart; he manifests more of it in his life; he is going on from strength to strength, from faith to faith, and from grace to grace. I leave it to others to describe such a man's condition by any words they please. For myself, I think the truest and best account of him is this: he is growing in grace." J.C. Ryle*

## **Segment II: Virtuous Life in a Broken World**

- 1) Identify your sins & your weaknesses
- 2) Identify your strengths
- 3) Apply Paul's "put off and put on" texts
- 4) Use your strengths to serve Christ

### **Sin vs. Weakness**

laziness.....exhaustion

gossip .....gift of the gab

Resolute Skeptic.....Doubter

stinginess.....lack of resources

inflated ego.....low self-esteem

dishonesty.....inaccuracy

gluttony .....eating disorders

Identifying & distinguishing between sins and weakness is a necessary step toward a virtuous life.

### **Strength vs. Weaknesses**

The Christian life is described as "from strength to strength"  
While we repent of our sins, we do not grovel in them

Christians are not resigned to be weak but instead believe that God's "strength is perfected in our weakness"

**Paul's "Put off and Put on" Texts:**

Galatians 5:16-25

Ephesians 4:17-24

Colossians 3:5-17

**We must do more than mimic the three monkeys**



A virtuous life, a gift from God to us, unfolds in our experience as we not only stop sinning, but as we start doing the right and good. The Holy Spirit works in us a fruitful virtue that includes the behavior of the three monkeys and much more. Remember: we are more than monkey, even 3 monkeys.

## **Christian Virtue Serves the Good Shepherd**

We serve Jesus as we serve others just as he has served others. We serve Jesus by taking up his mission in this world. This distinguishes Christian virtue from other western and eastern pathways to virtue, completed in the sphere of personal character and realization.

## **Segment 12: The Virtuous Life is Empowered by the Holy Spirit**

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...”

*Galatians 5:22-23*

### **Steps Toward a Virtuous Life:**

Ask the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to heal your wounds and to calm your fears - to grant you the peace of Christ.

Listen to the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, who applies the word of God we study to our hearts and to our obedience.

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the desire to grow in holy character & behavior.

Believe that the Holy Spirit indwells you to strengthen you unto holiness and take steps toward virtue to experientially prove it!

### **The Holy Spirit, The Comforter**

We need freedom from our afflictions, our wounded spirits, tormenting pasts and present abuses. Some of us believe that we can never be free while some of us use our victim syndrome as an

excuse for failing to live rightly. Freedom from our past and present is a necessary step in growing in virtue. Freedom does not mean the cessation of trouble and tribulation in our lives... Freedom is the gift of the Holy Spirit releasing us from the control of these evil and harmful influences.

### **The Holy Spirit, The Counselor**

Without the Holy Spirit illuminating our minds and opening our hearts, the gospel would be foolishness and the written Holy Scriptures indiscernible. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit coming to us to guide us into all truth. A virtuous life springs from a knowledge, embrace, and practice of the Holy Scriptures. From the Bible we learn what true virtue is and how we might connect to the source of all virtue.

### **The Holy Spirit Dwells in Every New Heart**

*“I will give them one heart, and a new Spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. But as for those whose heart goes after their detestable things and their abominations, I will bring their deeds upon their own heads, declares the Lord God.”*

**Ezekiel 11: 19-21**

### **The Holy Spirit Strengthens Us unto Holiness**

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”*

**Romans 15:13**

*“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”* Ephesians 3:14-19

## **All to the Glory of God: Worship is the Highest Expression of our Virtue**

Ephesians 3:14-19

Romans 12:1-2

*“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

### **soli deo gloria**

We are made in the image of God to display his glory. The Holy Spirit refines and enhances this display so that the glory of God is more and more the result of our lives and all of creation. This is the purpose and end of the virtuous life.