

The background of the advertisement is a composite image. The top half features a lion's head in profile, facing right, with a green color overlay. The bottom half features a reindeer's head in profile, facing left, with a red color overlay. The two images are separated by a horizontal white line. The text is centered over this line.

UPSIDE DOWN

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.

John 2:23-3:21

Nicodemus and Seeing the Kingdom of God

The spiritual life must be modeled and articulated.

The spiritual life must be modeled.

John 2:23 – “Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people **saw the signs he was performing** and believed in his name.”

John 3:2 – “He came to Jesus at night and said, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. **For no one could perform the signs you are doing** if God were not with him.’”

Demonstrating Self-Sacrificial Love

Honoring producing and serving more than receiving and consuming.

Mark 10:45

For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

The spiritual life must be modeled.

Thy mind, heart, soul and strength must ever search
To find the way by which the road
To all men's need of thee must go.
This is the Highway of the Lord.

- Howard Thurman

Babette
Honore



The spiritual life must be modeled

Only a gospel we model with our lives will penetrate the skeptical hearts of those we desire to reach.

The spiritual life must be modeled and **articulated.**

The spiritual life must be articulated

1. The spiritual life is atypical (3-9)
2. The spiritual life is volitional (14)
3. The spiritual life transforms the intellect (10)
4. The spiritual life is transparent (19-21)

The spiritual life must be articulated

The spiritual life is atypical.

John 3:5-7

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, "You must be born again."

The spiritual life is atypical

We are immersed in a culture where people are dedicated to created things and what we can get for ourselves rather than the Creator and what we can contribute to others.

The spiritual life is atypical

In a world we have created for ourselves to ensure the expression and gratification of our human desires, a way of life that finds pleasure and joy in truth, goodness, beauty, dignity, perseverance, thankfulness and God's glory is unusual and atypical.

The spiritual life is atypical

The desire to be free from the tyranny of Roman rule is understandable but different than the desire to be at peace with God.

The spiritual life is atypical

“I fear the average American Christian does not hate or want to kill indwelling sin half as much as he might a Muslim extremist.”

- Nic Gibson

The spiritual life must be articulated

1. The spiritual life is atypical.
- 2. The spiritual life is volitional.**

John 3:14-15

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that **everyone who believes** may have eternal life.”

The spiritual life is volitional

John 3:5 - “..born of water and Spirit.”

The spiritual life is volitional

You must “confess with you mouth and believe in your heart” (Romans 10:9)

The spiritual life must be articulated

1. The spiritual life is atypical.
2. The spiritual life is volitional.
- 3. The spiritual life transforms the intellect.**

John 5:39-40

“You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.”

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Categories	The Mind of Christ	The Non-regenerate Mind
Towards ideas	Loves the word of God	Prefers thinking about the physical, natural and practical
Towards the world and its affairs	Uses the Scripture as a framework because God's revelation is the foundation of all knowledge	Has many options including religion, pluralism, socialism, patriotism, philosophy (whatever allows me to live as I please)
Towards the family	A God-giving stewardship	An ultimate thing (idol), a necessary thing or a trifling thing
Towards work	A God-giving responsibility to create, rule and serve	A necessary means of satisfying personal needs (like achievement and material goods and services)
Towards Christ	Jesus is Lord	He is a prominent historic religious figure

The spiritual life transforms the intellect. It changes the way we think about everything.

The spiritual life must be articulated

1. The spiritual life is atypical
2. The spiritual life is volitional
3. The spiritual life transforms the intellect
- 4. The spiritual life is transparent**

John 3:20-21

“Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth **comes into the light**, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.”

The spiritual life is transparent

“When the divine power of the Holy Spirit applies the divine knowledge in us through faith, the result is spiritual substance embodied in virtuous human action.”

- Nic Gibson

The spiritual life is transparent

Godliness consists of the cycle of believing in Christ and his gospel, understanding him, obeying him and continuing in him.

The spiritual life is transparent

Christians live in the light...

Matthew 5:14-16 – “You are the light of the world...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

The spiritual life is transparent

If we are to live by truth and be models of godliness for the world and messengers of the gospel, self-disclosing our sins, frailties, and weakness to each other so that we can put them to death and grow in substance is a must.

The spiritual life is transparent

Character vs. Brand

Our *brand* may take a hit in the days ahead if our society gets more and more secular, but our *character* must increase in substance simultaneously.

The spiritual life must be modeled and articulated

1. The spiritual life is atypical
2. The spiritual life is volitional
3. The spiritual life transforms the intellect
4. The spiritual life is transparent

The spiritual life must be modeled and articulated.

A Call to Substance.

“If the spiritual substance, health, and beauty of our church cannot shine with the radiance of a city on a hill, we have no change worth offering the world.”