



**Christ-Centered Higher Education:**  
*Athens, Jerusalem, and the School of the Cross*

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# Two Traditions of Learning

- The School of *Athens*
  - Liberal Arts tradition
    - “Know Thyself”
    - Goal of education is human understanding
    - Knowledge of . . .
      - oneself,
      - the world, and
      - one’s relationship to the world and to others
  - The University
- The School of *Jerusalem*
  - Theological tradition
    - Knowledge of God
    - Deuteronomy 6:4-5
      - “Love the Lord your God...”
    - Proverbs 9:10
      - “The fear of the Lord...”
    - John 17:3
      - “... that you may *know* God...”
  - The Seminary

# Athens: The “Horizontal” School

## Human Culture

- Anthropology
- Art & Architecture
- Music
- History & Politics
- Philosophy
- Technology
- Economics
- Literature & Language
- Education



## Natural World

- Mathematics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Astronomy
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Medicine & Health

*Truths about ourselves and the world in which we live that we explore and come to understand by God-given means of cognition (reason, senses, and imagination).*

# *Jerusalem: The “Vertical” School*

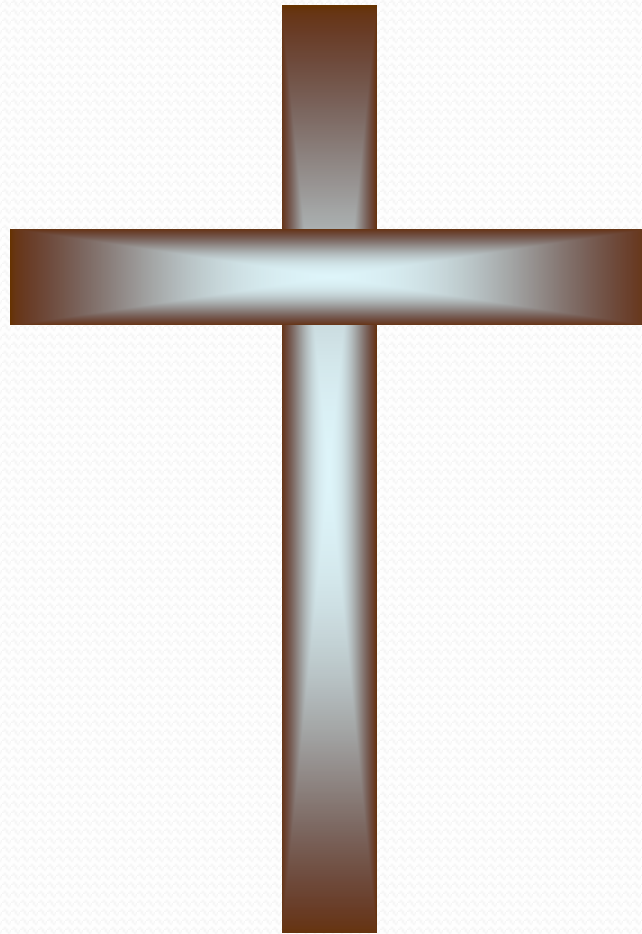
Divine Nature  
(God)



*Truths about God, ourselves, this life, and the next that we explore and come to understand by means of Divine revelation (Scripture), the work of the Holy Spirit, and the life and ministry of the Church.*

Human Nature

***Christ-Centered* Higher Education:  
The School of the **Cross****



# *Christ-Centered* Higher Education: The School of the **Cross**

## Two “Great” Traditions

- The two great traditions of learning begin with a summons to *discover* oneself in the process of pursuing either “horizontal” or “vertical” knowledge for *my own sake*.
- The pursuit of knowledge becomes a backdrop against which I stand out more clearly.

## School of the Cross

- Christ-centered higher education begins with the a summons to *die* to oneself in the process of pursuing knowledge for the sake of conformity to the likeness of Jesus Christ.
- i become a backdrop against which the person and purposes of Jesus Christ stand out more clearly.

# Cruciform Learning

- Christ-centered higher education stretches you to the point where you . . .
  - are drawn out of your self,
  - get over your self, and
  - get beyond your self.
- What distinguishes this process from its secular counterfeit is its aim.
  - Secular Counterfeit – Destructive *Telos*
  - Cruciform Learning – Redemptive *Telos*