John Calvin on Christian Piety

While John Calvin was widely known as an eminent sixteenth-century Protestant reformer and a brilliant theologian, it is perhaps less commonly remembered that he was also pastor and teacher to numerous exiled French Protestants among the churches in Geneva, Basel and Strasbourg. Concerned for the infant faith of these young believers, Calvin wrote in the first edition of the *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1536) that he intends for it "to transmit certain rudiments by which those who are touched with any zeal for religion might be shaped to true godliness" (1960, 61).

Conscious of Calvin's primary concern for faith formation, this lecture serves as an introduction to Calvin's theology and method for nurturing Christian piety as seen in the *Institutes of the Christian Religion (1559)*. It explores Calvin's explication of regeneration and its progress in the Christian life. The lecture will draw especially from Book 3:6-10 of the *Institutes* and will examine the relationship between the Word and the Holy Spirit, the roles of the heart and mind in Christian formation, and a rule of life that is patterned after Christ's. It concludes with reflections on its ramifications for our practice of Christian nurture today.



Speaker

Rev Dr. Jimmy Tan

Jimmy Tan is lecturer of pastoral and practical theology at Trinity Theological College. He obtain his PhD from Fuller Theological Seminary, where his research focused on Christian spiritual guidance. He is an ordained Presbyterian minister and has previously pastored at Singapore Life Church and Bethel Presbyterian Church, as well as served on several committees in the Synod and the English Presbytery. He is married to Soh Kwan and they have three daughters.

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