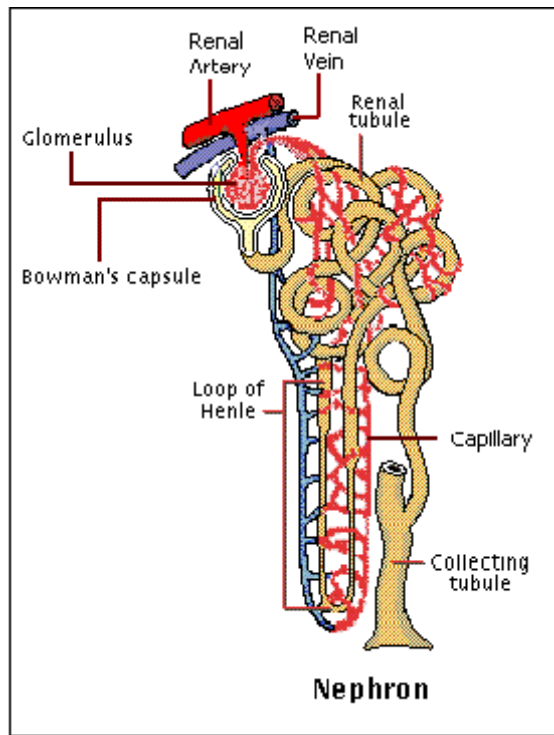




Letter from the Pastor

I am amazed by human anatomy. Recently, I studied nephrons, the functional unit of the kidney, each of which contains millions of these structures. The structures and their functions are too complex to explain here and a Google search on "glomerulus" will suffice to demonstrate the extreme complexity of these arrangements.



It bothers some folks that I can study science, whether it be anatomy, ornithology or physics and end up stronger in my conviction about my belief in the Supreme Being that we call God, who sent his son, Jesus, to begin the process of setting our hearts back on the track for which they were originally intended through his death in our place.

I have been told that I deny clear evidence if I can study science and come away with my faith intact, if not stronger. I would hold that I actually regard the evidence with deepest regard but see it through a very different lens, which of course will lead to different conclusions. The atheist

can look at the micro-structures of kidneys (nephrons) and ponder the wonders of evolutionary genetic modifications over hundreds of millions of years. But as I look at its design, I have to pause and worship. It is amazing in complexity and function and I see a wonderful design to the structure that the atheist must deny. An evolutionary scheme must account for every structure and function of these microscopic networks having developed over millions of years of positive genetic mutations. I see this as absurdity and that even with infinite time such complexity could not have been shaped by random pressures. We are indeed fearfully and wonderfully made!

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CHURCH MINISTRY

Sundays

10:00 am – Morning Worship

Wednesdays

7:00 pm – Church Prayer Fellowship

[God says,] "But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence."

Jeremiah 17:7 (NLT)



I posted on Facebook, "I wonder how kidneys evolved?" Here's one response: "Apparently, kidneys evolved once we came out of the sea, after we had bladders, as a gill mutation that benefitted filtering seawater for vertebrates." I called my friend on this, that he actually had no idea. He responded that kidneys are soft tissue that does not fossilize well. They have no idea on this; only conjecture because there can be no allowance for design.

So anyway, why does any of this really matter? It matters because design shows intended function, revealing a "the way it ought to be" mentality. Once we admit design, we have to understand that "This was meant to function thusly," which demands a designer who intended the function. This intent or design goes way beyond mere nephrons to human society on the individual and corporate basis. We were designed to function in certain ways and not in others. Change the structure of a nephron and you ruin its function. Change the base structure of people, and you ruin their function.

This is what sin has done. It has changed the nature of our being and hence, our function is ruined and the outcome is ever more dysfunctional. Society was not supposed to work like it now does with the constant struggle to keep us from succumbing to the law of the jungle.

If there is a design in our physical structure and a "way it ought to be" pertaining to our social/moral outworkings, then there is a standard, an absolute by which right and wrong may be understood. If the loop of Henle (part of the nephron structure) fails to operate correctly, we understand that there is something "wrong" with it because we know how it ought to operate.

When we see the societal decay all around us, from the growth of the number of fatherless children to the increase of single teen pregnancy to the housing collapse, we know that something is wrong. We know this because we have a standard, if only that which is written on our hearts. Turning from this standard places us into the decay of the second half of Romans 1. Without a standard, ethics become whatever the biggest thug says they are. We have seen this before in the Stalinist USSR and the inner city streets of any city.

We are broken and we barely function at all. There is no solution in sight that will give us the unrestrained will that we desire. We have no clothes and ridicule those who inform us of our naked

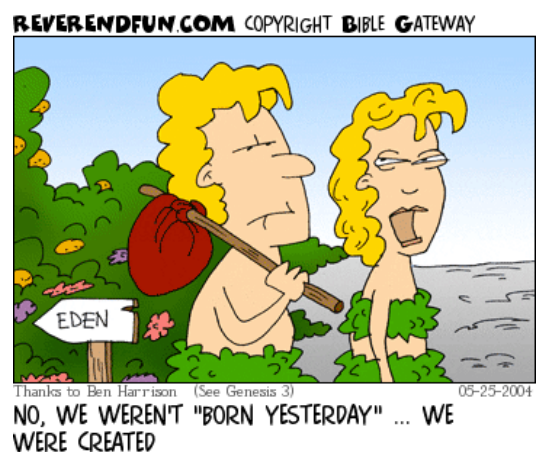
display. We hold our heads high, shaking our corporate fist at the very notion that we are accountable.

If we are indeed "fearfully and wonderfully made," then there is a standard, a blueprint that applies to more than just nephrons and all of the other complex structures of our bodies. The standard applies to the way we live our lives (our peripatew, for you Greeks) and we fall far short. As a skilled doctor is able to correct defects in our bodies, so Christ can correct the defect of sin in our souls, so long as we submit. Unless you tell the doctor that he can work on you, he cannot. Unless you intentionally consent to let Jesus cure your sin caused demise, he will not.

We often speak of the consequences of sin as being confined to being cast into the Lake of Fire at the end, but we need to understand that sin effects far more than mere eternity. It affects the quality of your work efforts as well as the rationale for them. Sin affects the quality of your marriage, your family, and all of your relationships. Turning from it and to Christ brings one back to the standard of our being, which is the base for all relationships. In Christ, the fearfully and wonderfully made aspect can apply to even marriages as husbands and wives learn the secret and habit of co-submission.

When I look at the pattern of veins on the back of my hand or consider the stars or nephrons, I fully understand that there is a design and a purpose to all of this, and that I need to be aligned with it. I need Christ and His fullness to be the standard of my life

--Pastor Steve



Great Commission NEWS *from Carol*

- From **Tom Jebo**: "Nancy is in Heaven! Her 8 year battle with cancer has ended. Cancer would appear to have won, but in fact Nancy is victorious and is now in a far better place. Nancy loved you very much and would want me to thank you for your prayers for her and your many encouraging notes and cards over these many years."
- Craig shared a must-read story in his April letter. "Shadrach gave **Leadership Resources** an incomparable gift last month." He also wrote: "Thank you for enabling us to equip top level leaders like Shadrach. Pray for us - that we continue to display this type of servant-leadership." In Craig's May letter, read about "one Brazilian church has so 'owned' TNT that they are blanketing Brazil with TNT! They expect to have 33 TNT groups up and running by the end of this year... equipping at least 650 pastors.""
- **Dan and Nancy** report on their ministry in Guatemala. They include "What We Have Learned (and re-learned) About This Field"... i.e. "a woman weaving a traditional textile for sale to tourists is happy to earn \$16.00 for a week of work!" Much other information about the Christian Academy of Guatemala and the country. Please pray for safe travel and good health as they plan to be in Cape Town, Republic of South Africa mid-June for a month.
- **Andrew** wrote: "these cards are a wonderful indication of what God is doing today in these formerly atheistic countries: Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Armenia." His card is on the board. He also shared results of Immanuel's Child Program this past Christmas. Worked in 9 countries; 268 participating churches; 10,165 Christmas stars given out; 14,864 children reached; 10,995 children from non-Christian families reached; 9,345 adults reached; 378 children came to Christ; 143 adults came to Christ; 412 adults started coming to church; 962 children started attending Sunday School
- From **Jim and Jennifer**: "You may wonder what you would do if you came on a missions trip to Mali..." They provided "a pictorial glimpse of such an experience." Spring 2011 Neath the Baobab newsletter is on the board. Also: "Pray for us and all the missionaries you know that God would supply our support needs. We can't seem to get a reserve built up. But we aren't hungry, so we PRAISE the LORD!"
- **Warren and Joyce** wrote: "our health situations went wild, for a time both of us went down and then up again. However nothing beats the faithfulness of our Lord taking care of us, Amen." Their letter and "Proof of Trust Time Line" is on the board. Please keep them in prayer: Warren is scheduled for eye surgery May 18, and Joyce's arthritis, in her words, "is a pain in the leg." Her cane is a constant companion.
- Pray for **Tim and family**: "Pray our light for Him will shine even brighter in this darkness... And that He gives us the grace to ENDURE with Joy and praise!"
- The goal of 8427 lunches for needy school children has been reached for this school year. "We extend a very hearty Thank You !! We are so fortunate to have your support."
- Pray for **Daryl and Valerie's** good health to return, particularly for Valerie. They wrote: "Please pray for God's grace with her knee problem and that no other side effects will develop. Thank you!"
- For **Rick and Susan**: Prayer as they re-schedule many projects and plan for a short trip to the states this summer. The papaya is sprouting! Kris is working again! Rick off on survey trip. Materials produced. Influential person offered to help.



SUMMER FUN ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

Don't miss this exciting event! [Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass](#), along with Ovid Young, will present a special concert on Sunday, June 5, at 4 p.m. This Olivette event is open to the public. There is no admission charge but a free will offering will be taken. Afterwards, the Hugos would love to have anyone who would like to hang out at their house for sandwiches or burgers or whatever and games 😊

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

Mendelssohn in Millennium Part at 6:30. Ann plans to take the train up-can coordinate. Bring a picnic or get Subway at the end of the line.

TUESDAY, June 21 or 28

Exploration Station for Grandma's/Grandchildren - after 2:00 pm it is \$1 donation. Also walking trails, playground, and maybe Dairy Queen?

WEDNESDAY, July 13

Art museum day-free-train

SUNDAY, July 17

To Cantigny after church. Shakespeare play outside at 6: \$10. Museums are open until 5. (24th will be the rain date.)

FRIDAY, July 29th

Sibelius at Millennium Park - 6:30 pm. Train. Picnic or grab Subway at the station.

After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the Declaration, finally approving it on July 4. A day earlier, John Adams had written to his wife Abigail:

The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.

