

***Many of us, possibly most of us, are familiar with or use Facebook. Occasionally someone will post a questionnaire asking, “How well do you know me”? The **questionnaire** will ask such things as what is my favorite color, or do I prefer coffee or tea, sweats or jeans, summer or winter? The questions are designed to test how well we know the little things about each other. Although the questionnaires are meant to be **something** one does for fun, they can give us pause if we are to really consider how well we know those whom we claim to know and love or at the very least care for. We are **often surprised** by how little we know about a person until we take to time to consider the questions and weigh the options.

The Psalmist, however, has confidence in God’s ability to answer such questionnaire. The writer reflects on the personal and intimate knowledge God has regarding his personage.

He proclaims “O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.” There is nothing that is **hidden from God**. Unlike those who may take the Facebook questionnaire there is no guess work involved and there are certainly no surprises.

Now I realize that the thought of God having such intimate knowledge of who we are as a person can be daunting, maybe even terrifying. Just hearing someone say I know you **better than** you know yourself and seemingly being able to back up such a claim can be an unnerving experience. When we stop to consider our deepest and most meaningful relationship we may find ourselves having to admit that there are things we keep hidden away, even from those closest to us.

However, it is not surprising that God has such an intimate knowledge of the Psalmist or even of us. The psalmist speaks of being fearfully and wonderfully made, knit together **in his mother's womb**. But the psalmist does not stop there he notes that God has looked upon his "unformed substance." and even before God begin to knit the psalmist together God searched him and knew him. God has searched us and known us.

Now I am not talking about pre-destination or free will. I am simply saying two **things, one** that we are uniquely the same. Before being knit together there is a questionnaire, a checklist if you will that God starts with: two eyes, check, one nose, check, two ears and one mouth that we me hear twice as often as we speak, check. Although God uses a basic check list or pattern to start with once God begins to knit us together in our mother's womb, the outcome is uniquely you and uniquely me.

Second, I would like to say that our joys and our pains, our thoughts, doubts and fears, our actions, reactions and inactions, are all laid bare before God. **We cannot shock God**, we cannot surprise God, we cannot fool God, and we cannot hide anything from God. But we should not be weary of knowing that God has such intimate knowledge of who we are. The God of all creation has personally and intimately knit us together that we me know God and God has given us HIS son whom God knit together **to walk among** God's people here on earth, whom God sacrificed and raised from the dead, and whose Spirit still dwells among us.

As you know I am a seminary student. If someone had told me five years ago I would be attending seminary I would have laughed and in fact I did when asked if I had **even considered** attending seminary. And yet here I am a seminary student. I have struggled with my calling. I have doubted the path that I am on. I have often thought God this simply cannot be. Who am I that you would call me? I had convinced myself **that I could walk** away for seminary. I had applied for the fall semester a year out convinced that I could simply turn aside and walk away.

But God knew me in my unformed substance and God knows me now. God knows the thoughts that I keep and fears that sometimes plague me at night. However, **God has knit** me together to be greater than my thoughts or

my fears. When God knit me together in my mother's womb God knew that I would someday need a gentle nudge, an encouraging word, and persons who would come along to plant and water the seeds on my path through seminary. God has searched me and known me. Those seeds that have been planted have taken root on my path and in my heart. I can now **begin to embrace** the call that has been placed on my life. While searching me God saw that I would need time to embrace my calling and God's grace to sustain me.

Just as God has searched and known the psalmist, just as God has searched and known me, God searches us all and knows us all. God knows when we sit down **and when we rise up. God has knit us together and is acquainted with all our ways.** If ever in your life you felt that you have done something or said something that God could not possibly forgive you for. If you have ever acted, reacted or failed to act or respond in a loving, caring or forgiving way. If you have ever thought that no one can ever know **me or the things** that I have felt, thought, said, believed or done, and still love and accept me, remember that God formed you in the image of themselves and knit you together and gave you the greatest expression of love, in the form of Jesus Christ, our resurrected savior. Amen.