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Fully Known

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Fully Known

Every relationship eventually comes to a point when you have to decide: do I really want to share everything about myself with this person? You're talking and getting to know each other and at first it's easy - you talk about your hobbies, your interests, what do you hope to accomplish this year, what's your major or what do you do for a living? But over time, the longer you're together pursuing a deeper relationship, whether romantic or just a friendship, the more you wrestle with questions like: Do I feel comfortable enough with this person to share my fears? Do I trust them enough to share my insecurities? Exposing our true selves can be uncomfortable and frightening.

In Psalm 139:23-24 David says, "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way." My sinful heart reads this and thinks: *Thank you God for pursuing after me and for searching me, but don't come to close because I don't know if you'll like me when you see me for who I really am. Know me, yes God, but you don't need to know this secret part of me do you?*

As much as we desire to be fully known, the thought of someone actually knowing every intimate thing about us is a little terrifying, isn't it? Even though David describes God's character throughout this chapter as the God who created us, encircles us, and leads us we've developed this habit ever since Adam and Eve to hide ourselves from God.

But God sees us differently than we see ourselves. He sees *YOU* differently than you see yourself. Paul describes in Galatians 3:27 that all those who have been baptized into Christ "have been clothed with Christ." Christ covers you! He covers your flaws, covers your shame, covers your weakness, covers your sin so that when God looks upon you He sees the glory of His Son Jesus!

You don't have to be afraid of God. There's no reason to run away and try to find a hiding place. The God who created you pursues after your heart. He leads you, He encircles you with His comforting Spirit. There's nothing about you He doesn't already know so there's nothing you have to keep from Him. My question for you is this: will you let Him in to your heart today by saying this prayer: "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way."

I pray that as you make the Main Thing, the main thing this week that you will experience deep peace in trusting the knowledge that you are fully known to the Creator God of the Universe, the One who loves you with an everlasting love.

Challenge & Upcoming Events:

- Find a quiet, sacred space and spend an hour with God. Invite Him into your heart, fully, and spend intentional time listening to His response to you.
- Tell someone - a friend, colleague, or mentor - about your experience with God.
- Join us **Friday, September 13 at 7:30pm in the University Church for Vespers** with guest speaker Pastor Manny Arteaga.

- **Sign up to be a part of a LifeGroup at GroupLink** immediately following Vespers at 8:30pm in Iles Gymnasium.
- If you are interested in **participating on a disaster relief trip** through Southern, please fill out an application <https://forms.gle/YnrPkC6Yn9h3bWkP8>.

-Anna Bennett