

*" For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.  
My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them,  
the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. " – Psalm 139:13-16*

We cannot shy away from the challenges associated with believing the truth in the Bible. We can't water down God's word – it is without error, given to us to bring guidance and direction. What we have in these texts are some of the bedrock, foundational truths for humanity. If the majority believed what is written here, not passively but to actively believe these statements so that you are able to recognize and respond to any doctrine, or idea that stands in opposition to them, would have world changing consequence.

### **1. The Attitude of Jesus**

The Church has the responsibility to show to the world who Jesus is. The religious authorities did not like it, but Jesus met with the sinner, the broken, the hurting and sick. Jesus came to save the lost, and reached out with tenderness, and gentleness. There were times when Jesus did get angry, and spoke boldly against sin. Jesus confronted the establishment and the hypocrisy in the institutions – to the point of making and using a whip. However, when dealing with the individual, He acted in love and kindness, not holding their past before them, but providing a hope of a glorious future. This is how the Church should respond to society today.

We are living in an age where the majority do not actively believe that life is sacred - do not actively believe that being made in God's image is what makes every person intrinsically and infinitely precious. We live in a day and age where to make a stand for the rights of people not yet born is perceived to be bigotry, intolerance, heartless and old-fashioned. The Church must declare God's Word, not with an agenda to bring judgement or condemnation, but reconciliation and a commitment to resist the schemes of Satan in our lives and the world.

**How can the Church be seen as judgemental and heartless – particularly with people considering abortion?  
What role do we have in confronting these issues? How can we respond in a way more like Jesus?**

### **2. His Work is Wonderful**

Every strand of DNA, in all its complexity and uniqueness was arranged and assembled by God. A picture of incredible precision and design. He knows us so well, He formed us, even to the smallest molecular detail. If this is true, God is interested in us from the very start. If this is not true, then why should we trust anything else in the Bible? If we believe the Word of God, we must believe God knows us from the womb.

David praised God for he was 'fearfully and wonderfully made'. This is the key to transforming lives and communities. How you love yourself is directly linked to how you love your neighbour (**Read Matthew 22:36-39**). This isn't some self-idolatry type of love for yourself, but a love that leads you to praise God. Do you consider yourself to be 'fearfully and wonderfully made'? Is God's workmanship in you as an individual wonderful? If you struggle to give a resounding yes to that question, then I guarantee you this: you are looking for value in the wrong place.

**How do you respond to the statement that you are 'fearfully and wonderfully made'?  
What values can we desire that prevent us seeing the wonderful creation of God in ourselves, and in others?**

### **3. Why His Work is Wonderful**

**Read Genesis 1:26-31**

In all His creation there's one creature bestowed with honour and dignity above all others. Only one 'made in His image', made to be 'like Him'. Man and woman are bearers of the Divine Image - wonderful works simply because we have been made to be like the most wonderful being in existence. To deny this truth, to deny the intrinsic wonder of any person, is to deny the wonder of the One in Whose Image we have been made. If I say that God's work in me is not wonderful then I have failed to realise who I am and failed to realise Who He is.

**How can we see 'His image' in the way we have been created?  
How does this affect our attitude to others? To ourselves?**

### **4. When His Work is Wonderful**

There is debate over when life begins, and various opinions on when the sanctity of life should be considered. *Psalm 139:16* describes a God who is interested and involved from the start, in the womb, at the 'unformed substance'. We live in a world currently under the shadow of death, not free from its onslaught but through Christ delivered from its sting. Even through the turmoil and pain of miscarriage and abortion we have hope, that the love of God wins through.

You were made by Him and for Him. I am not my own, my children are not my own, they have life because God created it. A person's worth and value is derived from this fact – that they are made in His image – not on any attribute, or ability, intellect, race or religion. Our Creator has given us life that we might know Him and be known by Him – forever. We need to see the 'wonderful work of God' in every person – write no one off. All value is found in being made in God's image.

**How can we be tempted to 'write-off' God's creation and workmanship when it doesn't meet our standards?  
How can the Church - and we as individuals - respond in love to the hurt, the lost and the broken?**