



Sermon Series: Who Am I – Identity in God  
God's Masterpiece – Psalm 139:1-18  
19 Jan 2025 – Small Group Notes

What things do we tend to build our self-identity on and how can our identity be found more in God?

When have you seen theology best expressed in art, poetry, song, or prayer? Why and where might these forms be helpful?

Theology proper explores an area called the incommunicable attributes of God. Meaning things about God that we don't understand because they are foreign to our nature. Do you have an example of when you have been struck by God's incommunicable attributes, and are therefore left without answers?

Within Theology Proper are three Omni's that are well known. Psalm 139 focuses on these three Omni's before the various volumes on theology had been written.

Psalm 139 divides nicely into four sections that are six verses each.

First God's knowledge, or omniscience (verse 1-6), meaning God is all-knowing.

Second God's presence, or omnipresence (verses 7-12), meaning that God is everywhere.

Third God's power, or omnipotence (verses 13-18), meaning God is all-powerful.

And then finally David's personal reflection and repentance in response.

Throughout this Psalm David takes profound truths about God and makes them personal. Pay attention, for example, for how often it says me, I, or my (50 times). Also notice how often it say 'you or your' (28 times). As a Psalm of worship it draws us as the readers, or hearers into a conversation with God.

**Read Psalm 139:1-6 – God's knowledge (you might also read Isaiah 55:8-9)**

If you were to illustrate the difference between God's knowledge and ours, how would you do it?

What do you find striking about how David makes the knowledge of God personal in these verses? What stands out to you?

### **Read Psalm 139:7-12 – God’s presence**

Here David makes God’s presence personal as well. What stands out to you about how he does this?

What is in the human instinct to hide from God even though we know that we cannot?

How can you grow in an all-the-time awareness of God as a way of encouraging your faith?

Here are the lines that were used from Francis Thompson’s poem *The Hound of Heaven* if your group finds it helpful (*this is just the beginning as it is very long and complicated!*)

I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;

I fled Him, down the arches of the years;

I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways;

Of my own mind;

and in the midst of tears;

I hid from Him, and under running laughter.

### **Read Psalm 139:13-18 – God’s power**

Here David makes God’s power personal as well. What stands out to you about how he does this?

Eugene Petersen said, "In the presence of birth, we don't calculate – we marvel." When have you been in wonder over birth or life?

How would you explain what it means for something to be ‘fearfully made’?

### **Read Psalm 139:19-24 – Responding with Reflection and Confession**

What do you think about how David responds to these amazing truths about God? What do you find encouraging or troubling about his response?

Shawn