**Bible Study Week One**

*Who are you?*

How do you answer that question? With your name? Your occupation? Your vocations (Stations in life)? Your hobbies? Where you came from (linage/heritage)? Other?

What makes you, *you*? Body type? Physical features? Personality? Likes/dislikes? Hopes/Fears/Dreams? Memories? Experiences? Other?

What comprises a person- Body? Soul? Mental faculties? Spirit? Other?

What aspect of that is most important? Why?

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How do the following quotes seek to answer these questions?

Decartes 1637- “I think, therefore I am.”

Ramana Maharshi – “Who am I? Not the body, because it is decaying; not the mind, because the brain will decay with the body; not the personality, nor the emotions, for these also will vanish with death.”

Gabourey Sidibe- “Your body is your temple, it's your home, and you must decorate it.”

USMC- “Pain is weakness leaving the body.”

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Read and reflect on **Psalm 139:1-18**

What is the starting point of the Psalm?

How does the author view himself? How would he answer the questions above?

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The Christian Faith teaches and confesses an ever-present, all powerful, creative God- who is both merciful and just. It orientates us to look *outside* of ourselves to answer the question “Who are you”? It presents us in a unique relationship to God and thus a unique role among the rest of creation.

Read and reflect on **Genesis 1:1-5**

Compare that with the first few verses of Psalm 139- What is being confessed or revealed in the Scriptures? What is the source? Who is the ‘actor’?

Note that the following verses in Gen. 1 reveal/confess a few things: 1 God creates (out of nothing). 2 The agency of creation is His will expressed by word. (God speaks=action!) 3. There is order to creation. 4. Creation includes living and non-living things.

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Read and reflect on **Genesis 1:26-31**

Note the actor. Note the vocation. Note the ‘image’. Note the blessing. Note the provision.

Compare with **Genesis 2:4-8; 15-25**

Note the actor. Note the agency of creation. Note the problem and the solution. Note the distinction/similarity. Note the relationships. Note the order.

There is value in God’s creation- all of it. There is purpose in God’s creation-every detail of it.

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Genesis 3 is an account of the attempted devaluing of God’s creation and frustration of its purpose by our chief enemy. In it we see that the enemy strikes a deadly blow, but not a blow beyond the healing of the Creator. However, there are consequences that we are still living with to this very day, and we will, until the end of this age. The most significant, and the most damaging has been moving from perceiving ourselves as made in the *image of God* to trying to be *like God*. From this point on, the scriptures reveal what mankind does when they seek to be ‘*like God’*- and it’s not a good story. But mingled in the mess is a story of God redeeming what He has created, preserving what He has purposed by restoring the Image of God.