

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know 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 beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them yet existed."

•Psalm 139:13-16 (NRSV)

John Calvin comments on this passage:

"God makes the most perfect work of all in the dark, for he fashions man in the mother's womb. The verb, [to embroider or] weave together, is employed to amplify and enhance what the Psalmist has just said. David no doubt means figuratively to express the inconceivable skill which appears in the formation of the human body.

"When we examine it, even to the nails on our fingers, there is nothing which could be altered, without felt inconveniency, as at something disjointed or put out of place; and what, then, if we should make the individual parts the subject of enumeration? Where is the embroiderer who—with all his industry and ingenuity—could execute the hundredth part of this complicate and diversified structure? We need not then wonder if God, who formed man so perfectly in the womb, should have an exact knowledge of him after he is ushered into the world."

• Commentary on The Book of the Psalms, vol. 4 (trans. The Rev. James Anderson), Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1993.

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Little Child, Who Made You? "God"

What else did God make?

"God made all things."

Why did God make you and all things?

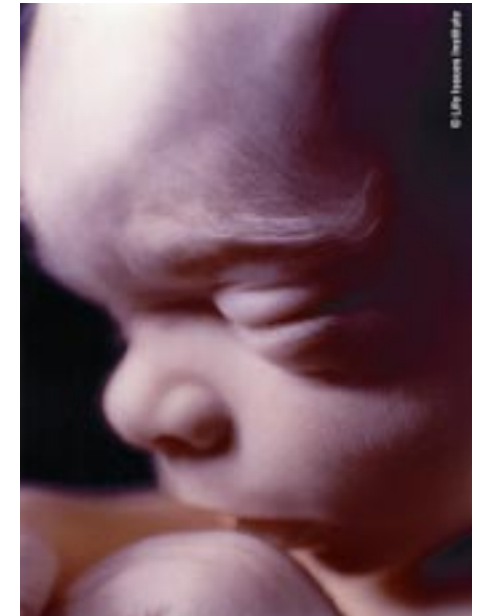
"For His own glory."

How can you glorify God?

"By loving Him and doing what He commands."

Why ought you to glorify God?

"Because He made me and takes care of me."



A little child in the womb, 20 weeks old.

• From the "Catechism for Young Children," prepared as an introduction to the Westminster Shorter Catechism, originally published in 1840 by the Presbyterian Board of Publications, Philadelphia.