

2-18-2026 – Fully Known, Fully Loved.

We all share a desire to be fully known & still completely loved.

We usually settle to be loved but not fully known. We hide parts. Secrets. Fear - if fully known, we won't be fully **loved**. Share just enough/no risk of rejection

Tim Keller - famous quote - "To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God".

Jeremiah 1:5 – “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

God knows us. Intimately. From before we were born He "knew" us.

- God's **omniscience** (all knowing) is shown in that He has knowledge of what has **yet to be**.
- His knowledge of us is even **more than we know ourselves**.
 - “I’ll never do that/be like that.” We do. God knew it.
 - Jesus to Peter – you will deny me 3 times.
 - **Psalm 139:1-4** – “**1** O LORD, You have searched me and known me. **2** You know when I sit and when I rise; You understand my thoughts from afar. **3** You search out my path and my lying down; You are aware of all my ways. **4** Even before a word is on my tongue, You know all about it, O LORD.”

We have no secrets from God. God knows us completely. We're **fully known**.

- **1 Cor. 13:12** - “For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been **fully known**.”
- Being “fully known” by God signifies a deep, personal relationship w/ the Creator. God has an intimate knowledge of us.

Because God has drawn us to Himself by love, we love Him back.

- The problem: Jesus said, “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” (John 14:15).
- [2 John 1:6](#) – “And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments.”
- o Our hearts are willing . . . the flesh is weak. We’re human.

We fail. We sin. We’re like **Adam/Eve** – “**hiding & ashamed.**” They tried to hide. But there’s no hiding from God. Their story shows us - **God knows.** There’s no hiding, but also - no need to fear.

He comes looking for us b/c He wants a daily relationship with us.

God did not stop loving Adam & Eve. He doesn’t stop loving us either.

God covered their shame.

Jesus didn’t stop loving Peter. He gave Him 3 affirmations.

God replaces our sin w/ His righteousness. Our shame/His cross.

Disciples ran from the cross . . . Jesus came to them /closed doors.

The cross said: “I know you and I *still* love you.” Died for sinners.

The Gospel is NOT - Jesus’ death persuaded the Father to love us.

That is NOT the gospel. *God doesn’t love us b/c Jesus died for us; Jesus died for us because God loves us!*

- The message is – I know everything about you ... all your sin ... your weaknesses ... failures ... and I love you fully and completely. Always!
- **Romans 8:35-39** - Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? . . . ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. ³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,^[a] neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- If we truly **understand & trust** in God's love, we will live differently.
 - Many try to **perform** for God. We want perfect performances, as if God is still deciding what to do with us.
 - Performing looks for points / penalties. Olympics – deductions.
 - Underneath that is fear - fear of failure. Disqualification. Judged
Fear of losing favor . . . losing blessings, . . . losing heaven.
 - That mindset makes God a judge w/ a clipboard.
 - **Rom. 8:33-34** – “Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one - for God himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us & was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God’s R. hand, pleading for us.”
 - **Understand** – salvation nor love was earned by your goodness.
 - We don’t walk in love/obey/keep His commandments to be accepted
 - We are accepted b/c Jesus obeyed.
 - Legalism flips that – says: obey so you can belong to God.
 - Gospel says – you belong, so you’ll walk in love . . . imperfectly.
 - We want to be perfect. Perfect score. No weakness. So we perform.
 - God says, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness.” – **2 Cor. 12:9**
 - Ask – am I driven by fear, or by love? Do you confess, but not rest?
 - If so, that’s performing . . . not responding to God’s love.
 - Jesus didn’t obey/die on cross just for us to try harder.
 - He died, so we could rest. Have peace. Place – secure.
- God’s love isn’t dependent on how good we are. God loves us b/c we are... we are His creation. His child. His beloved.
- You don’t earn it to have it . . . you don’t lose it b/c you’re imperfect.
 - He knows you. Fully knows you . . . and He loves you!
Tauren Wells – “Known” – Communion. Take in that love.