



## From Fertilization to Forever

Heaven has no assembly lines. A tour of the Almighty Maker's headquarters will turn up neither a fabrication department nor a manufacturing floor. In fact, He doesn't even employ any equipment operators, apprentices, or assistants. God Himself labors in the same place where He lives: not a workshop but instead a studio, a single room where He brings about human beings meticulously, intimately, organically. **"The Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life"** (Genesis 2:7). You can't order neighbors from a catalog, and He won't deliver them by the case. **"You knitted me together in my mother's womb"** (Psalm 139:13).

Our kind is not mass-produced. We are handmade, each and all, one at a time, and one of a kind.

Sinful nature prefers reducing ourselves to merchandise. Ingrained selfishness would rather regard others as commodities. It offers the illusion of independence and promises control. And it detaches from responsibilities and obligations. But artwork always retains the originator's signature. Whoever else obtains it or displays it, it never ceases also being the Artist's. Indeed, the masterpiece derives the decisive weight of its worth from this connection. Creations always have value beyond mere utility.

So the Apostle's epistle to the Ephesians pronounces us **"God's workmanship"** (Ephesians 2:10). The phrase literally translates to "His poetry." From the first scribble to the final squiggle, He imbues every human life with His own preciousness and permanence. Embracing our limitations means splinters and scratches for Him, but the blood and sweat of the Most High atones and embellishes us with an indelible beauty. Jesus begotten embodies how every member of our race belongs, gift and privilege and blessing and treasure not only to Him but for us all. Yet His resurrection demonstrates how He never lets go. This Lord and Savior drapes us in courageous grace and, like a Heavenly Father, cradles us with forgiving compassion. And He who decorates this world with such as us will display even the least of these all the more prominently and proudly into the world to come.