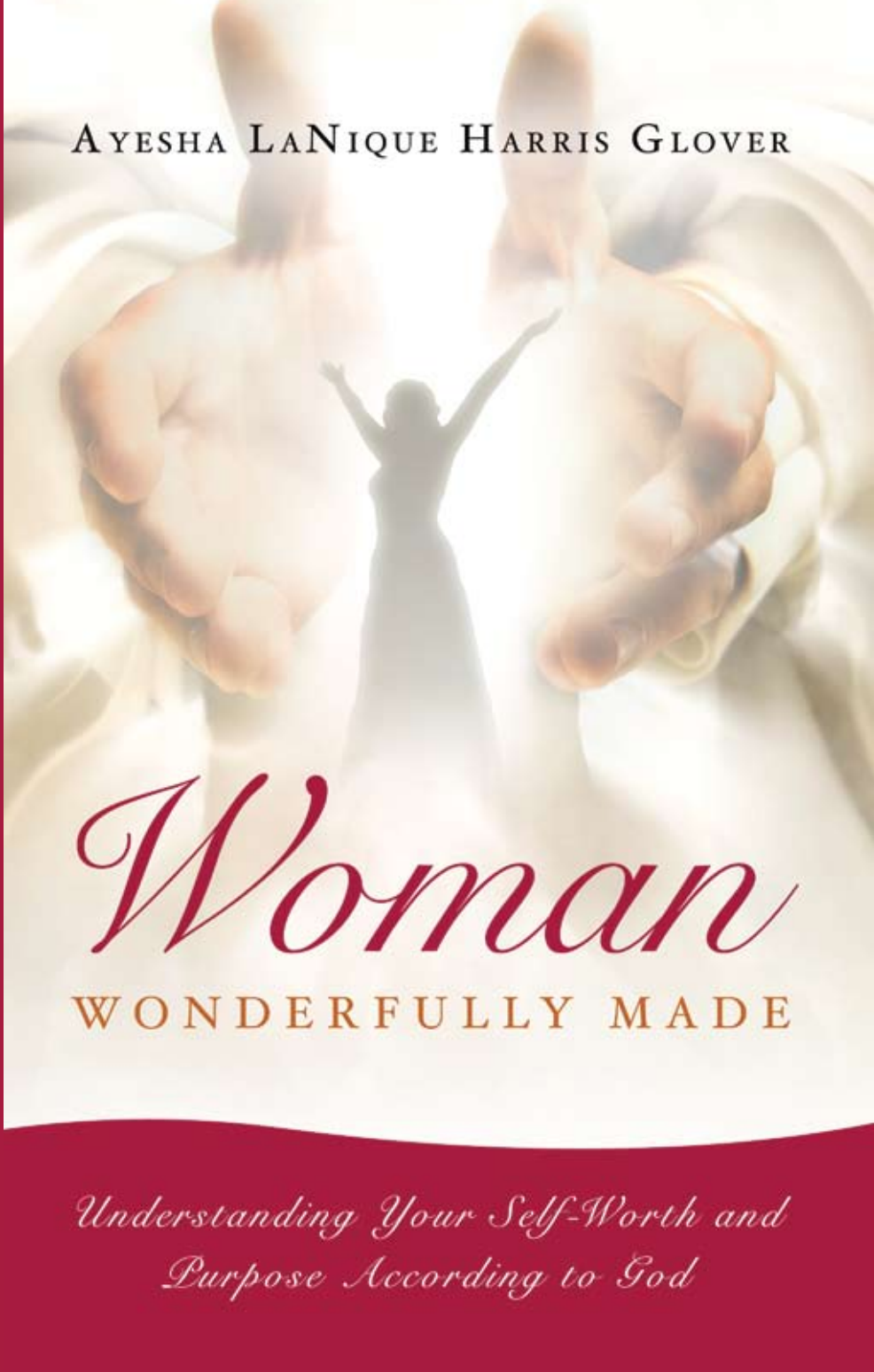




AYESHA LANIQUE HARRIS GLOVER

Woman

WONDERFULLY MADE

*Understanding Your Self-Worth and
Purpose According to God*

Inadequate. Inferior. Have you ever believed those lies about you? Do you compound those lies by telling yourself you're too fat, too thin, not smart enough, not pretty enough, or lacking in talent? That self-image and self-loathing saddens God.

Learn from Scripture about your creation, character, salvation, grace, talents, and future as a *Woman: Wonderfully Made* by the hands of God. As a daughter of The King, you have been divinely created in His image to be bold, beautiful, wise, talented, and fabulous. You were created to be revered for your profound and divine inner beauty.

In *Woman: Wonderfully Made* each chapter is packed with timeless insight to help you be the woman God created you to be.

- ◆ Learn how to stop the vicious cycle of lies.
- ◆ Learn to value yourself as God values you.
- ◆ Learn who you really are as a woman.
- ◆ Repair your self-esteem and come to understand your worth as The King's daughter.
- ◆ Learn simple steps to prepare for a spiritual journey that will change your life forever.
- ◆ Discover the great plans the Lord has for you as His Ambassador of Love, empowered to carry His message of love and salvation.

Your Father, the Creator of the Universe, is pursuing you. He values you. He wants you to trust Him to carry you through each trial and fill your heart with hope, love, and courage.



Ayesha LaNique Harris Glover is a Motivational Teacher, Corporate Trainer, and Author. The middle child of three girls, Ayesha grew up in San Francisco, California. She has a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. Since 2003, Ayesha has owned and operated Training Principles, an employee training and development firm. Her passions include writing, training, and helping individuals; especially inspiring women to reach their divine potential through spiritual, educational, and career development.

Ayesha and her husband oversee several small groups of married couples and single women in their church. She lives in Las Vegas, Nevada with her husband, two daughters, and mother.



Pleasant Word™
A Division of WinePress Group

Christian Life / Women's Issues

ISBN-13: 978-1-4141-1282-4
ISBN-10: 1-4141-1282-3



9 781414 112824

REL012130



Woman

WONDERFULLY MADE

Woman

WONDERFULLY MADE

*Understanding Your Self-Worth and
Purpose According to God*

AYESHA LANIQUE HARRIS GLOVER



© 2009 by Ayesha LaNique Harris Glover. All rights reserved.

Photograph of author taken by Bob Morgan of Las Vegas, Nevada.

Foreword written by Emma Causey, Women's Ministry Leader in the Los Angeles Church of Christ.

Pleasant Word (a division of WinePress Publishing, PO Box 428, Enumclaw, WA 98022) functions only as book publisher. As such, the ultimate design, content, editorial accuracy, and views expressed or implied in this work are those of the author.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any way by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise—without the prior permission of the copyright holder, except as provided by USA copyright law.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are taken from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Scripture references marked THE MESSAGE are taken from *The Message Bible* © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002 by Eugene N. Peterson, NavPress, PO Box 35001, Colorado Springs, CO 80935, 4th printing in USA 1994. Published in association with the literary agency—Alive Comm. PO Box 49068, Colorado Springs, CO 80949. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the *Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, copyright 1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved.

ISBN 13: 978-1-4141-1282-4

ISBN 10: 1-4141-1282-3

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 2008906991



Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
Foreword	xi
Introduction	xiii
Opening Prayer	xvii
1. Designer Made	1
2. Made in His Divine Image	9
3. Designer Price Tag	21
4. Spiritual Inheritance.	27
5. The Designer's Plan	41
6. Spiritual Royalty.	49
7. The Struggle Within.	57
8. Lessons from a Divine Sister	63
9. Glorious Inner Strength	79
10. Embracing Your Divinity – Part 1	97
11. Embracing Your Divinity – Part 2	117
12. Ambassador of Love	131

Closing Prayer	139
Poem – Divine Is the Princess	141
Websites and Email Addresses	143
Divine Princess Merchandise	145



Acknowledgments

This is my first book, so you know I have to thank everyone.

Thank you to Alyssa Stiff. Without your boldness in sharing your faith, life, and love for God I would not have come to recognize God as my Father.

Thank you to Sheryl Atlas. You are my “bestest” friend in the whole wide world. Your faith, sacrifice, and complete love for God have inspired me on more occasions than I could ever recall.

Thank you to Tanya Counts, my Women’s Ministry Leader who is also my friend. Thank you for your guidance and helping me to mature as a Christian. Your seal of approval gave me additional confidence as a Christian writer.

Thank you to Emma Causey. Your enthusiasm and immediate response to writing the Foreword to *Woman: Wonderfully Made* was extremely encouraging to me. I am

humbled and grateful for your desire to help me be successful in honoring the Lord with this book. Your support and Kingdom experience lend to my credibility as a woman of God and Christian author.

Thank you to Anne Silipo. You were the first woman in leadership in God's church that I saw in action. Your example is the picture of "a gentle and quiet spirit" (1 Peter 3:4), that God calls us, as women, to be. Only now, as a more mature Christian, do I fully appreciate gentleness and submission.

Thank you to my friend, Michelle Stainbrook. Your life situations have challenged you, yet you continue to persevere. I hope this book will encourage your heart, inspire you to embrace God in a new way, and allow you to love yourself the way God has always loved you, loves you today, and will love you eternally.

Thank you to my Sisters in the Greater Las Vegas Church of Christ and the hundreds of women I have met over the years. Your challenges, successes, and examples have inspired me to write and increased my faith in the Lord.

Thank you to Halima Todd. Your original artwork for the Wonderfully Made logo and book cover aided in the final glorious designs.

Thank you to Kerry Dean. Your editing comments and suggestions provided valuable insight that confirmed the timeliness and relevance of this message. I look forward to growing our new found friendship and I appreciate the connection *Woman: Wonderfully Made* has formed between us.

Thank you to my mama, Jacqueline Harris. You always love me like Jesus: unconditionally, sacrificially, and wholeheartedly, even when I act ugly.

Thank you to my father, Alton W. Harris. Your example taught me that I am important as a person and helped me to find my voice at a young age. You have unknowingly taught me to never take “No” for an answer.

I pray this message encourages my daughters, Ajya and Jhaelyn, to accept their eternal birthright, not as a Glover, but as a daughter to the one and only King, the Lord God Almighty. I pray you will embrace your divinity and all the Lord has in store for you in relation to your lives, hearts, spirits, relationships, bodies, work, and service to him and others.

Thank you to the love of my life, my husband, Darryl. You have never stopped holding my hand or encouraging my heart in my journey to achieve everything on my life’s To Do list. No words could ever express my gratefulness and love for you and all you do for me.

Thank you to my Lord and Savior. You have rescued me from the slimy pit and have brought me to know the truth and treasure your principles. I will never be able to express my complete gratitude for your love, forgiveness and hope. I know all things are possible with you and you work for the good of those who love you. May I always find solace in you.



Foreword

The Bible has always been a source of encouragement, support, and inspiration for women. The Bible is a *divine* guide for women of noble purpose. The Bible speaks to the heart of a woman, giving her faith to live a more fruitful life. I am convinced that women have a special place in God's heart. When a woman finds God, she will discover the beauty of her life.

Ayesha has found the beauty of her life, and she shares her faith in God with creativity within the pages of *Woman: Wonderfully Made*. Scriptures are detailed throughout the reading and illuminate her resolve to be faithful as a daughter of The King.

There are special interest stories of women of the Bible whose acts of faith are worthy of imitation. Ayesha is a bright student of the truth and humbly learns from women around her on how to live by faith and not by sight; she shares some of their stories in this book, referring to them

as *Divine Princesses*. Ayesha opens up about her own strengths and weaknesses, allowing you to see the person and not simply the author with a pen.

Ayesha is a great friend to many in Las Vegas (and in the Kingdom of God); knowing Ayesha is one of the greatest privileges and joys of my life. Her life in Christ is refreshing and an upward call to me and other women here in Los Angeles.

You will find yourself wanting to answer each post chapter question and picking up the book to read it again, because of your growing desire to deepen your personal convictions in the Lord. As you read *Woman: Wonderfully Made*, you will have reached into the heart of a woman who loves deeply and believes inexplicably in her calling...and your calling to live as you were designed to be—a “*Divine Princess*”.

—Emma Causey, MA, MFT
Women’s Ministry Leader
Los Angeles Church of Christ



Introduction

Woman: *Wonderfully Made* speaks directly to every woman who is questioning her self-worth, is seeking to understand God better, or is confused about her place in the world. If you are uncertain of your worth and doubting why God loves you, this message will inspire you and provide you with ways to strengthen and mature your relationship with the Father. This book will help you understand how much God truly loves and adores you and wants you to believe in yourself, your birthright, position, heritage, talents, and duty as a daughter to The King.

As a woman of God, I have not always embraced the truth of being *wonderfully made*. In fact, because of my self-doubt, I took several years to write this book. I was afraid no one would want to read it, let alone buy it. I feared people who knew about my past would question my credibility as a Christian author or *Divine Princess*. I feared I would misrepresent God and somehow make

him look bad. I had many fears, and Satan used them against me.

After three years I made the decision to finish the book. I decided that what people thought was not my primary concern, and that a true woman of God focuses first on what God thinks and how to please him.

The Lord has put this message on my heart for a long time. And through the years the message has evolved into this book. I now believe I would be doing God a disservice by not sharing this message with you.

In a few places in the book I call you Sister, because I wholeheartedly want to embrace you as my Sister. So no matter your race, age, experience, lifestyle, faith, beliefs, values, or biological ties, we are connected as human beings and as women. By design, this book reads like a personal conversation between you and me. I want to connect with you as if we have known each other for years.

My regular profession is as a corporate trainer. I have a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. Therefore, I understand the principles of *active training*, one of which is that people learn best by doing, and more importantly, if you want to master something, teach it to others. *Woman: Wonderfully Made* is also my effort to master being a great daughter to the Father, The King.

In no way, shape, or form do I feel I have *arrived* at being a great daughter. Yet God has blessed me with a healthy and positive self-esteem, which has allowed me to pursue and enjoy many extraordinary experiences. And although I have fear, sadness, struggles, and sin, I diligently work to not let those things hold me back from pursuing that which I am certain is good, right, loving, and healthy.

The message I share with you through *Woman: Wonderfully Made* is one that helps you understand how valuable you are to the Lord. Believing in your value will change your life and help you pursue those things that honor the Lord and bring you forgiveness, salvation, much joy, peace, prosperity, hope, and true love.

My hope is that you will realize the fullness of your worth and birthright as a daughter to The King and begin to live your life with purpose: seeking the Lord wholeheartedly, embracing his love and promises, and using your talents to share his love with others.

Open your mind and heart and envision yourself living the concepts shared in each chapter. With each page you read, remember you are the Lord's masterpiece, he is always right, and the magnitude of his love covers all sins and *endures forever*.



Opening Prayer

Dear Father,

You are the most famous Designer ever! You have made woman to be loved, honored, beautiful, and abounding with gifts and talents. Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. Thank you for this opportunity to affect the heart of one of my Sisters. I am grateful for each word in this book and I pray you allow *Woman: Wonderfully Made* to be used for your glory. Thank you for putting this message on my heart. Thank you for creating an avenue for me to share your love and purpose with women all over the world.

Please bless my Sister who has been chosen to hear your Word through this book. In Romans 10:17, you say “faith comes from hearing the Word.” So please use this message to build her faith, soften her heart, and create in her a deep and passionate longing for you that stirs her to action, seeking you with everything she has. Please help

her to examine her heart as she reads each scripture and each page. Please use the questions after each chapter to develop her Christ-like character and draw her closer to you. Lord, remove every obstacle from her path and protect her against Satan's attempts to sidetrack her and dissuade her from following you. I ask that you watch over her and keep her optimistic, safe, and healthy during her spiritual journey.

Thank you for using me to help my Sister build a deeper, more meaningful relationship with you. Please place this book in the hands of thousands, even millions of women around the globe. Please allow our collective prayers to bring many women home to you surrounded by your unconditional love, constant forgiveness, eternal salvation, immeasurable hope, and perfect peace. Please answer my prayer for this message as your Daughter, your *Divine Princess*; not my will, but may your will be done.

I pray all of these things in Jesus' name,

Amen



C H A P T E R I

Designer Made

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

(Ps. 139:14)

Women love things that are designer made, whether it's a Coach purse, Jimmy Choo shoes, a Vera Wang dress, or even diamond jewelry designed by the late Harry Winston. We love designer things. We will do more, work harder, beg, borrow, and steal for authentic goods. Well, I'm here to tell you, Sister, you are Designer Made. And not by any old designer, but created by the best and most innovative and talented designer of all—God, the Creator of the Universe.

When I think about the creation of woman, I get goose bumps. I love knowing the Creator of the Universe, who created all things, created you...and me.

You are like no other. You have been intricately designed. You are unique and special in the eyes of God. There has never been and never will be another *you*!

When God created the universe, he used his artistic, loving, and omnipotent mind to speak into being the planets, stars, oceans, animals, trees, and plants. He waited until the right moment to create man. Five days he spent creating all the things that he knew would bring peace and joy to your heart and provide you with the sustenance necessary for you to live, not just survive, but to live in abundance.

The first chapter of Genesis explains that on the sixth day God created man in his image. God purposefully placed man in charge of all living things because man was designed to be superior to everything else on the Earth (Ps. 8:6-8). The Lord spent time looking for a companion that was perfect for the man he had created. When he found none among all the other animals, God made you...woman. Woman was the final piece of artwork God formed—the finishing touch that brings all else together.

You were not an afterthought, but the final *masterpiece* to the formation of the universe. With *you* his majestic creation was *complete*!

Wow! Doesn't that make you feel special? I am inspired every day knowing the Lord put time and specific thought into creating me...woman.

Woman is not just a pretty sidekick to man. Woman plays one of the most essential and intricate roles in history; every day honored for her love, courage, service, and example, and forever remembered in women like Mary, Esther, and Deborah.

Sadly, many women have forgotten or never realized who they are. They place their self-esteem in the hands of sinful and flawed people who have distorted views of humanity. Then women fail to accept their positions as daughters of The King, thereby failing to realize their rights as daughters, their God-given talents, and their responsibilities as *a woman*.

So many women hate themselves. They hate how they look. They think they have no talents or skills. I have heard many women say, "I could never do that." "I'm not smart enough." Or, "I'm not pretty enough." I have said those things.

As women, we often fail to recognize our talents and we never seem to be satisfied with our bodies and the way we look. We allow society and its twisted thinking to tell us what is beautiful. And when we don't match up to the perfect look of the month we feel ugly, stupid, and hopeless. That has *got* to end!

The Lord tells you that you are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Ps. 139:14). What does that mean? It means you were created to be awed and revered as a holy, powerful, gifted, and beautiful masterpiece of the Lord. Human beings are the Lord's *magnum opus*: his

single greatest work. Nothing in all creation is greater than you!

When I reflect upon my own creation, I am reminded of Psalm 139:13, “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.” With his own hands the Lord created me. He designed my nose, lips, hips, and thighs. The size 11 shoe I wear is part of his design. He gave me my personality: bold, passionate, motivated, and creative. And yet, at times, I have struggled to love *how* God created me. I have wished and prayed for green eyes, bigger breasts, smaller hips, longer hair, and so on. Those things are not eternal. Nor will they bring me eternal happiness. My joy, my confidence must come from God, not a 36”-24”-36” figure. I am beautiful to my Father. And better yet, I will be beautiful *and* flawless in heaven. And until I get there, God is not judging me by my cup size or the size of my hips. He loves me no matter what. He loves me in ways I cannot imagine. God, *my* Father, loves me even when I do not love myself.

Your true self-esteem and self-worth have to come from God. He created you. He knows his creation is good, and God is never wrong!

As you accept your position as a daughter of The King, you become spiritual royalty. You become a princess—a *Divine Princess*, in fact.

As a divine being, please don’t be confused with being a god or being God. Rather, as a *divine* being you are of God and God-like because the ability to display God’s character was placed in your heart when you were made in his image. Nothing else God created was made in his image—only mankind, only you. You have the power within you to display the character of God, the Father of the universe. This power is mysterious, though. It doesn’t work simply because you want it to. This power that I am

referring to comes to life and takes shape when you receive God as your Father and give your heart back to him. God gave you your heart first, literally and figuratively. As you grow and mature you must give your heart back to the Lord in order to receive your spiritual inheritance as a child of God. Then, you can achieve your full, God-given traits and potential. Without this transfer of heart, you can never experience all of the divine blessings, gifts, grace and mercy the Father has in store for you.

Being divine is not about being perfect, whether in your looks, thoughts, behavior, or character. Being a princess is not about palaces, financial wealth, or being waited on hand and foot. Therefore, being a *Divine Princess* is a spiritual concept, where worldly definitions take a back seat to spiritual definitions. My goal is to make this concept clear to you, so that you will understand your self-worth is defined by God. It is a certainty that God loves you completely without pretense or conditions. The Father's desire is for you to take your place in his family, love yourself the way he loves you, and share his eternal and unconditional love with others.

The Lord wants you to see your reflection in the mirror and feel beautiful, not just because of the way you look, but rather because of the love in your heart, how you share that love with others, and your continual devotion to him.

I could tell you lies like Satan does about monetary wealth, outward beauty, and worldly fame, but I would be doing the Lord, you, and myself a great disservice. Is your nose the right shape? Maybe not according to the most prestigious plastic surgeon, a sinner and flawed man himself. Yet, it is according to God! Is your hair the right color? Maybe not according to the latest fashion magazine,

created and operated by the opinions of narrow-minded and imperfect people. Yet, it is according to God.

If you decide to change your appearance in some way, first ask yourself, why you want to do that. Please pray about your situation, if your answer includes things like:

- I will finally like myself;
- Others will like me;
- I'll be more accepted by other people;
- I will obtain the desires of my heart;
- This change will please so and so;
- I won't be depressed any more;
- My relationship with my boyfriend or husband will improve; and etc.

Seek advice from an honest and trustworthy friend, and think twice about what you are about to do.

Determine the underlying reasons for wanting to change your appearance. If they have something to do with self-loathing or fantasy outcomes, you must deal with the real issues. Neither something as small as coloring your hair nor the more extreme of plastic surgery will change those deep-seated issues that plague your heart, mind and spirit.

Sister, I'm not telling you that it's bad to color your hair, have plastic surgery done, or to somehow change or improve your appearance. What I am saying is make sure your motives are pure and healthy. God made you specifically, just as he intended, down to the last detail. He knew what he was doing. He wasn't wrong, bored, or preoccupied. All he wants you to do is appreciate and love yourself the way he loves you. The Lord does not want you to determine your worth based on magazine covers,

the latest TV show, or the opinions of sinful men. He wants you to live confidently knowing you are beautiful and unique—an *original* masterpiece of the Creator of the Universe.

There are no stars in the sky that can shine brighter than you in God's eyes. There are no mysteries of the Earth that God admires more than you. He created you in his likeness. So believe this—the Father has created nothing more magnificent than you...*woman: fearfully and wonderfully made.*

DEEPEN YOUR PERSONAL CONVICTIONS

READ: Genesis 1-2; Psalm 139:13-16

1. Write out the definition of “*magnum opus*”.
2. Why are you considered the Lord’s “*magnum opus*”?
3. What one thing will you change in your thinking to believe you are the Lord’s original masterpiece?
4. Pray daily for your mind and heart to fully believe that you are the Lord’s masterpiece and have his love unconditionally and eternally.