

Justine Van Zee

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Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

While I was growing up, the phrase “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14) was expressed often in my home. I was told that the fibers, mind, heart, and soul of my being were made with a special purpose to equip me to wherever or whatever I may be called to pursue. Furthermore as a Christian, these words, “fearfully and wonderfully made” continue to be held close to my heart, but I believe these words hold so much meaning and truth for everyone no matter where you find yourself on your journey or whatever beliefs you may hold. Each person is made wonderful, and I reminded more and more of this truth every day through the people that are continually placed into my life.

Dear Donor and His Family,

First of all, I just want to take this moment to simply express how thankful I am to you and your family for how you have gifted me with the opportunity to learn about the special way that you were “fearfully and wonderfully made” in terms of your body. I hope to become a physical therapist someday and your gift has helped me pursue this special purpose that has been placed on my heart. You not only helped educate me on the beautiful workings of the human body, but you also impacted my classmates and me with how to treat and successfully diagnose patients that we will work alongside in our future professions.

Having the opportunity to be able to learn, discover, and marvel at the human body through this gift has offered me a whole new dimension of what it means to be “fearfully and wonderfully made.” In fact, each person holds a sense of authentic and intriguing wonder. This sense of wonder is specifically tailored to the individual. Instead of memorizing muscle origins insertions, innervations, and blood supplies in a detached sense, your gift enabled me to see how

different muscles were connected and how various signals and fluids were transported throughout the body to help you breathe, laugh, dance, and live out the purpose of your life. Whether it was the intricate detail of the smallest muscle fibers being pieced together or the complexity of your vessels, I was amazed at the way you were specially designed. In fact, you are like no one else; you are one of a kind masterpiece.

Although there is a general structure of the human body for me to learn while in the classroom, I was overwhelmed with wonder with how you were different than anything a book could ever teach me. Through my time spent with you, I was able to see how you were not a diagram in a textbook, but a human who was loved, respected, and admired by so many. In other words, you were more than just anatomical structures joined together; you were a presence that promoted a sense of compassion, service, and humility. Although, I was only able to see the unique beauty of your body, I know that the life you lived and the way you blessed the lives around you was also incredibly special. You were “fearfully and wonderfully made” to serve the purpose that made just for you.

Specifically, I can envision the stories shared with your grandchildren balanced on each knee, the excitement etched across your beaming smile on the day when you walked across the stage to receive your diploma, and the butterflies overflowing from your stomach on the day you were awestruck by the immense beauty of your bride. These moments amidst others illustrate how you were “fearfully and wonderfully” made not just in essence of your body, but as a father, grandfather, husband, son, brother, co-worker, mentor, and friend. Therefore, I also want to express my gratitude to your friends and family for letting them share you with me and my classmates. Thank you again to both you and your family for letting me discover a part of how you were “fearfully and wonderfully made.” It truly was an honor. Thank you!

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