

"To know who you are is to be oriented in moral space, a space in which questions arise about what is good or bad, what is worth doing and what not, what has meaning and importance for you and what is trivial and secondary." — Charles Taylor, *Sources of the Self*

"Before I first reflected on myself, there existed one whom God created when he created me, one who occupied the place I occupy. This creature existed in my mother's womb, and in its existence I existed. 'My frame was not hidden from thee, when I was made in secret' (Ps. 139:16). But though God knew of my existence then, I did not. Even when my first observations of the world were granted to me, knowledge of my self lagged behind them. This observer that I am was in the world before I learned to call it 'me.' (Robert Spaemann likes to point out how small children speak of themselves in the third person before they learn to use the first.)" — Oliver O'Donovan, *Self, World, and Time*

"Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 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." — I Corinthians 13:8-12

"The power of memory is great, very great, my God. It is a vast and infinite profundity. Who has plumbed its bottom? This power is that of my mind and is a natural endowment, but I myself cannot grasp the totality of what I am. Is the mind, then, too restricted to compass itself, so that we have to ask what is that element of itself which it fails to grasp? Surely that cannot be external to itself; it must be within the mind. How then can it fail to grasp it? This question moves me to great astonishment. Amazement grips me. People are moved to wonder by mountain peaks, by vast waves of the sea, by broad waterfall on rivers, by the all-embracing extent of the ocean, by the revolutions of the stars. But in themselves they are uninterested." — St. Augustine, *Confessions*

"We are unknown, we knowers, to ourselves ... Of necessity we remain strangers to ourselves, we understand ourselves not, in our selves we are bound to be mistaken, for each of us holds good to all eternity the motto, 'Each is farthest away from himself'—as far as ourselves are concerned we are not knowers." — Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals*

"To hear you speaking about oneself is to know oneself." — St. Augustine, *Confessions*