Unique

As I walked along the beach I stopped to pick up shells. As I gathered them I marvelled at their variety. Each shell differed in size, shape, colour and feel. Even shells of the same species were not identical, they too had their subtle differences. I could not find a pair that were identical, each one of them was unique. I placed the ones that I had collected on a piece of driftwood and marvelled at their beauty and variety.

As I marvelled I thought of our God who had created this diversity. How creative, how imaginative, how marvellous, how clever. My words fall a long way short of describing how great our God is, but you get the idea! I am getting the feeling that God loves diversity and uniqueness more than we can imagine.

This diversity and uniqueness extends right across all of creation as we see the amazing variety of plants and animals on this planet of ours. Even animals such as zebras are unique: they may look the same but if you look more closely you will see that they each have a different configuration of stripes!

Now look at humanity: Each and every one of us has been created in the image of God but with our own special kind of uniqueness. Not one of us is meant to be exactly the same as anyone else. Our variety is absolutely astounding: different looks and different personalities and all created in the Glory of God.

Then tell me, why do people of all ages try to imitate what someone else looks like or copy what they have bought? Have I got the same fashionable clothes as everyone else? The same hairstyle? The same most up to date phone or TV set? Am I going to the trendiest clubs or shopping for the most popular brands. Do my kids have all the mod cons that other kids have and do they attend enough extra curricular activities? Have I got the right look? AM I ENOUGH? This type of comparison can be very soul destroying and damaging to a person’s self esteem.

The answer is YES!! You are enough. God looks upon you with adoring eyes and there is nothing you can do to change this. God knows all your unique traits: the way you smile, the exact number of freckles you have, the way you feel when you are excited or disappointed or in pain and God loves all of you. It is not healthy to compare yourself to others. Be assured that your unique individuality is more than enough. Comparison is the thief of joy. God wants us to live life to the full, not spend it seeing if we fit someone else’s idea of perfect. Or worrying about what someone else has that we don’t. We are unique!

As you wander through nature or even observe a group of people, I invite you to observe and appreciate the amazing creativity of our God who can create such an amazingly diverse world for us to live in. Nature honours uniqueness and diversity, so let us also honour uniqueness and diversity in ourselves. Embrace the traits that make us the individual that we are and thank God for this gift.

If you feel like observing some of this diversity around you perhaps you can take a photo like I did and share...