



Some (not so) random thoughts on being human

Disability Theology



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Disability theology is the attempt by disabled and non-disabled Christians to understand and interpret the gospel of Jesus Christ, God and humanity against the backdrop of the historical and contemporary experiences of people with disabilities.

The soulfulness of the body



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- And the LORD God formed man [of] the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Genesis 2:7; KJV)
- St. Augustine described human beings as *terra animata*, “animated earth.”
- Human beings are thus seen to be created from matter, but inspired/given breath/brought into living existence by the very breath of God. **We are our bodies as we are our souls.**

All Human Encounters are Holy Moments

- As earth animated by the breath of God, human beings are seen to be “holy creatures living among other holy creatures in a world that is holy
- **Every-Body** is holy
- Attending to God’s creatures is in fact a mode of attending to God



Every-body has a Place

Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you? (1 Cor 3:16)

Multiple bodies; Multiple worlds?

- All of us encounter the world through our bodies
- The body is a source of knowledge
- None of us encounter the world in the same way
- There is no point at which we can call “our” experience of the world “normal.”
- All of our perspectives are just that: *Perspectives*



Encountering God with our bodies

If you are blind you will never see the scriptures; If you are deaf, you will never *hear* the word; if you have no arms you will never *feel* what it is like to embrace someone even though you are embraced. To be embraced by the love of God will have a totally different meaning. *Not a better meaning or a worse meaning, but different.*

But

But likewise, if you *can* see, you will never know what it is like to encounter God without sight; if you *can* hear, you will never know what it is like to sign the word and to use your body in ways which a hearing person simply cannot grasp. If you can remember everything well, you will never know what it is like to encounter God without remembering God.



The Rhythm of Hospitality: Guesting and Hosting

**Encountering
Jesus through
Adam's body**

