

RESOURCES FOR DISABILITY THEOLOGY AND PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Compiled by Avery Arden (they/ze, MDiv, More Light Presbyterians board of directors).

Hire me to facilitate a workshop on these or other topics!

- www.binarybreakingworship.com/workshops

Suggest further resources, ask me questions, or reach out just to chat by emailing me at queerlychristian36@gmail.com or avery@mlp.org.

There are two sections to this document:

- general resource for learning more about disability and ableism
- theology resources / ministry-specific resources

Here's the link to this google doc if you want to share it around:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1d6shtgATkzkiCyTmlVsgXitjcms0u7TYV8flnx3qwUA/edit?usp=sharing>

Some resources for basic disability knowledge (not religious-specific)

Statistics and avoiding ableism 101:

- Basic 101:
<https://www.bustle.com/articles/187964-9-things-that-might-not-seem-ableist-but-actually-are>
- How to behave: <https://www.wikihow.com/Interact-With-People-Who-Have-Disabilities>
- Attitudes to avoid when talking to disabled people / chronically ill people:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/26/opinion/sunday/cancer-what-to-say.html>
- Don't ask: <https://themighty.com/2015/10/questions-you-shouldnt-ask-wheelchair-users/>
- **Intersectionality:**
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/five-lessons-ive-learned-about-intersectional-disability_b_58335443e4b08c963e34434e?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLnNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAL86bQYckyjyzqVUNWc8ml0o7bDJOGw95E-VAs4dpxiqhNIFdx6KB54YsOg8Dxtj4J6AaYcTK4uWTmNzBK2r7T2MSrIJXNpSWYoMKpz5jZLoAEPNbw2vMuY9pIDwviOvqrnFBZOOj7-XK-zMfSfQnDIhNX9YKp2MELSWfYcMLkfr
- Intersectionality:
<https://restforresistance.com/zine/dear-thin-people-on-fatphobia-ableism-other-oppression>
- **Fatphobia and anti-blackness** (video):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nqWHRxwroA>
- Basic 101: <https://achievementcenteroftexas.org/2017/09/01/end-ableism/>
- Statistics: <https://healthresearchfunding.org/19-amazing-ableism-statistics/>
- Statistics: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2018/p0816-disability.html>

On language around disability:

- “Differently abled” is crappy:
<https://www.autistichoya.com/2013/08/differently-abled.html>
- Okay to say disabled, autistic:
<https://autisticadvocacy.org/about-asan/identity-first-language/>

The medical and social models of disability:

- <https://www.scope.org.uk/about-us/social-model-of-disability>
- <http://bcrw.barnard.edu/videos/my-body-doesnt-oppress-me-society-does/>

On invisible disabilities:

- <https://www.disabled-world.com/disability/types/invisible/>
- <https://invisibledisabilities.org/what-is-an-invisible-disability/>
- <https://www.hwns.com.au/about-us/blog/5-things-about-invisible-disabilities-you-need-to-know/>

On Neurodiversity:

- <https://neurodiversitysymposium.wordpress.com/what-is-neurodiversity/>
- <https://autisticadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/whitepaper-Increasing-Neurodiversity-in-Disability-and-Social-Justice-Advocacy-Groups.pdf>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neurodiversity>

<https://www.charisbooksandmore.com/disabilityanti-ableism-booklist>

Works on Disability Theology / Practical Actions in Ministry

Online articles with accessibility tips:

- <http://episcability.org/Accessibility/50-ways-accessible.html>
- <https://beckiewrites.com/2018/12/17/16-easy-ways-the-church-can-be-more-accessible-to-people-with-disabilities/>
- <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1720912>
- <https://autisticadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Autistic-Access-Needs-Notes-on-Accessibility.pdf>

YouTube Videos, Podcasts, Social Media

- [My YouTube series Disabled AND Blessed](#) explores disability theology, the Bible, and God's good news for disabled persons here and now
- [Autistic Liberation Theology is a podcast](#) that explores the Bible through a disabled lens!
- [Everything Happens is a podcast](#) that explores faith in the midst of suffering, from chronic illness to sudden accidents to disability and more
- [The Point of Pain is another podcast](#) that explores disability and spirituality
- [Twitter for the Association of Ministers with Disabilities](#)
- [Twitter: Disability & Jesus](#)
- Twitter: [Lamar Hardwick @AutismPastor](#)

Texts from the bibliography below that I most highly recommend:

- The second half of Eiseland
- The entirety of Hull (it's not too long)
- The chapters from Amos Yong on Luke/the Gospels, on Paul, and on eschatology

I post lots of **excerpts from resources** at the following link, if you don't have time for / access to a whole book : <http://a-queer-seminarian.tumblr.com/tagged/disability+theology>

And here is a tumblr post with various links:

<https://blessedarethebinarybreakers.tumblr.com/post/184770055236/someone-told-my-friend-who-has-crohns-disease>

My own paper on disability theology sums up a lot of the material that can be found in the following texts! Read it here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VON0YngZCy2PsWFTf-SjHHEX8XgCpaWrx0FnI9QQc5Q/edit?usp=sharing>

Abrams, Judith Z. *Judaism and Disability: Portrayals in Ancient Texts from the Tanach through the Bavli*. Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet University Press, 1998.

Avalos, Hector, Sarah J. Melcher, and Jeremy Schipper. *This Abled Body: Rethinking Disabilities in Biblical Studies*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2007.

Campbell, Fiona Kumari. "Disability Harms: Exploring Internalized Ableism." In *Disabilities: Insights from across Fields and around the World*, edited by Catherine A. Marshall, Elizabeth Kendall, Martha E. Banks, and Reva Mariah S. Gover. London: Praeger Publishers, 2009.

Cambell, Scott. "Disability Theology." Dork Central. Accessed February 21, 2019. http://myplace.frontier.com/~scottcampbell11/id15.html#_ftn89

Eiseland, Nancy. *The Disabled God*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1964. 0 pages.

Gillibrand, John, Rowan Williams, and Anthony J. Bailey. *Disabled Church - Disabled Society: The Implications of Autism for Philosophy, Theology and Politics*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2014. 110 pages.

Hull, John M. *Disability: The Inclusive Church Resource*. London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 2014. 80 pages.

Hull, John M. *In the Beginning There Was Darkness: A Blind Person's Conversations with the Bible*. London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2001.

Jacobs, Sandra. "The Body Inscribed: A Priestly Initiative." In *The Body in Biblical, Christian and Jewish Texts*, edited by Joan E. Taylor, 1-16. London: Bloomsbury, 2014.

Junior, Nyasha and Jeremy Schipper. "Mosaic Disability and Identity in Exodus 4:10; 6:12, 30." *Biblical Interpretation*. https://brill.com/abstract/journals/bi/16/5/article-p428_2.xml?crawler=true

McAllister, Ray. "Theology of Blindness in the Hebrew Scriptures." Andrews University: Digital Commons, 2010. <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1088&context=dissertations>

McCloughry, Roy, and Jean Vanier. *The Enabled Life: Christianity in a Disabling World*. London: SPCK Publishing, 2013. 100 pages.

Olyan, Saul M. *Disability in the Hebrew Bible*. Rhode Island: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Reynolds, Thomas E. *Vulnerable Communion: A Theology of Disability and Hospitality*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2008. 227 pages.

Tigay, Jeffry H. "'Heavy of Mouth' and 'Heavy of Tongue' on Moses' Speech Difficulty." *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*, no. 231 (1978): 57-67.

Yong, Amos. *The Bible, Disability, and the Church: A New Vision of the People of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Pub., 2011. 149 pages.