

If my Mom were still on This Side, she'd be 98 years old today. I wonder how old she appears in the Light of the Eternal Day? Do you ever wonder about such things?

We had a few moments of such wondering in the office yesterday, pooling the insights (and ignorance) of Protestant and Catholic theology on the matter. Once we die, do we appear as the same or a similar age on the Other Side?



Are we younger? Older? Are babies still babies? Are centenarians still feeble? Are amputees still missing limbs? Do bald folk now have hair? Are those who were emaciated by disease now healthy and strong? These questions are surely as crucial as the medieval concerns about how many angels can dance on the head of a pin (and the more important question of what dance they were/are doing? A “happy dance”? The Charleston? The Jitterbug?).

From the very small sample of such sightings in the Bible, it appears that persons on the Other Side are certainly recognizable as themselves, and that they appear much as they did when they left This Side. And we have at least one signal example of a physical body that was so destroyed at the time of death as to be unrecognizable. In our Lord's post-resurrection appearances, He still bore the marks of hatred in His hands, feet, and side, but He was otherwise healthy and strong.

I liked Rebecca's conclusion about the matter: “I've always thought that we appear in heaven as our best selves in this life, whatever age that was . . . or would have been.” I'd say that's a pretty reasonable and Hope-full conclusion. In any event, Happy Birthday, Mom!



This “theological meander” brings me to a request for your help. This weekly “column,” “article,” or “blog” has been called “Dave's Laptop” since its inception nearly twenty years ago.



Actually, I think the first name was “From Dave's Laptop,” for no better reason than that it's always been composed on my laptop computer.

My goals for the column have been several: (1) to offer examples of how to think theologically about everything that happens in our lives; (2) to offer thoughts about theological and/or life issues that don't fit so well in a Sunday morning sermon; and (3) to have a place in which to reflect whimsically on . . . well, whatever. And from the first, I have generally considered what I put in the

*Laptop* to be nearly as important as what I say on Sunday mornings.

I expect that you, my Dear Readers, approach this weekly missive with various degrees of ambivalence. Some folk don't read it at all. Some read it occasionally. Some read it all the time. And, whether or not this column is read by others at all, it does me good to work on it.

Our Technology Team continues to work hard on the redesign of our CBF website (I had no idea the project would be so complex!), and in last evening's meeting it was pointed out that the title "Dave's Laptop" communicates very little in and of itself. For those encountering the term without any context, does it communicate something technical and electronic? Is it something for sale? Is it random bits and pieces of church news and announcements?



At the same time, while "Dave's Laptop" may not communicate very effectively with outsiders and newcomers, for those who read it, it may have taken on something of a "brand" identity. "Branding" hasn't ever been my purpose, but I see the point of this observation.

And this is where I/we need your help. As we get closer and closer to publishing the new website, is there some other title that could be given to this weekly experience that would be more helpful? Ideas such as "Theological Thoughts" and "Ministry Meanderings" come to mind. Should the word "Laptop" be in the title at all?

I suppose this could take on the nature of a "naming contest" for which the Grand Prize would be a FREE Lifetime Subscription to whatever we call this (aren't you ecstatic?).

And while we're naming things, it was also pointed out in last night's meeting that "Baseball Diamond" is no more helpful a title for congregational organization and personal discipleship than "Dave's Laptop" is for a blog.

For persons who are familiar with what is known as "the Saddleback Model" for congregational structure, "Baseball Diamond" communicates quite a lot. But for everyone else (which is nearly everyone, after all), "Baseball Diamond" feels like a distraction "out of left field" that doesn't add anything except confusion.

So here's an invitation to help us come up with another metaphor or symbol through which we can communicate the same information. Two that occurred to the group last night are a five-pointed star and the Cross (see the next page).

Are you feeling creative? Let us hear from you!

Dave

P.S. I told you several weeks ago that I was going to append information from *Operation World* every week. I still read it every day, and I encourage you to do so, too, but I've decided that I didn't need "one more thing" to do every week in terms of selecting and including readings here. Sorry to disappoint.



