

## Theological Musings from Dave's Laptop

July 7, 2020

First Corinthians 12:18 is not my favorite Bible verse—that would be Zephaniah 3:17—but it's on my short list. Paul is using our physical bodies as an example of the Body of Christ, the Church, and here's part of what he says about the matter:



*<sup>14</sup> Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.*

*<sup>15</sup> Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?*

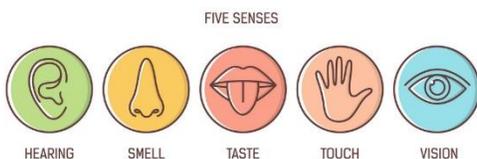
*<sup>18</sup> **But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.** <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be?*

*<sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body.*

*<sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup> while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.*

*<sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it (1 Corinthians 12:14-26).*

Paul's point is that each of us has special abilities that God has brought to the Body of Christ so that "everything will get done." God has given each of us special abilities for the purposes of God's Kingdom, and when we use those gifts, we are effective, and we experience JOY!



While that perspective is very important, I want to think with you this week about the more literal "eyes, ears, and hands" of our physical bodies. I've been thinking about those a good deal more of late, especially about the five senses through which we experience the world.

At about this time thirty years ago, I was finishing up the final copies of my Ph.D. dissertation, and I discovered that I was unable to apply whiteout effectively to the small specks left on the paper from printing. A vision test revealed that one of my eyes is nearsighted and one is farsighted, so I had no 3-D vision by which to accurately hit those specks.



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And so, just as I turned 40, I went from no glasses to progressive tri-focals, and began to see the world as I had never seen it before. The transformation was amazing.

Moving from eyes to nose, Jill has told me for years that I have sleep apnea and should be using a CPAP machine. I haven't doubted her diagnosis, but resisted her prescription. Then, earlier this year, my physician decided that I should have a sleep test, which proved Jill's diagnosis and provided me with a CPAP. I haven't slept this well in years!



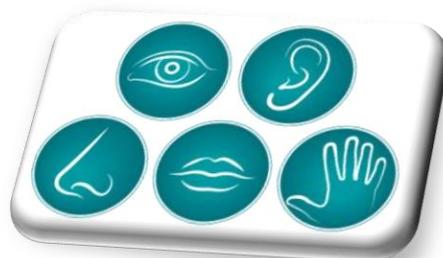
And finally (for the moment), moving from nose to ears, last year's chemotherapy has diminished my hearing quite noticeably. Both of my parents lost their hearing in their nineties, so I expected such, but I'm not 90 yet!



When I mentioned this in a recent CBF ZOOM meeting, Beth Trollinger extravagantly offered to give me her Dad's nearly-new hearing aids, since his resurrected body no longer needs them. As it happens, my next-door neighbors, newlyweds, are both audiologists, and they're going to set up my new hearing aids tomorrow. I'm pretty excited!

The sad part is that I'll lose my ability to tell Jill, "I didn't hear/understand you, dear." Oh, well.

Dave



On a lighter note, do you know these new vocabulary words from “*coronaspeak*”?

**Coronaverse:**  
that reality that all people everywhere now inhabit

**Quarantimes:** the era in which we now live

**Coronapocalypse:**  
the breakdown of society from COVID-19

**Viral Anxiety:** what we experience when we go to the mall or the store

**Zoom Fatigue:** what we experience at the end of most days

**Quaransheen:** the sweaty look on the faces of people with Zoom Fatigue

**Emotional Coronacoaster:** how we feel from week to week

**Covidiots:** people who spurn masks and distancing

**Infodemic:** dodgy news reports and tweets

**Pando:** pandemic

**Coronacranky:** how the morning goes without coffee

**Quarantini:** what some people drink at the end of the day

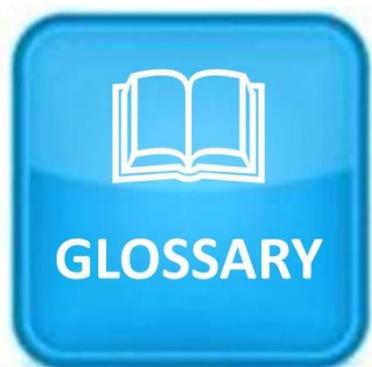
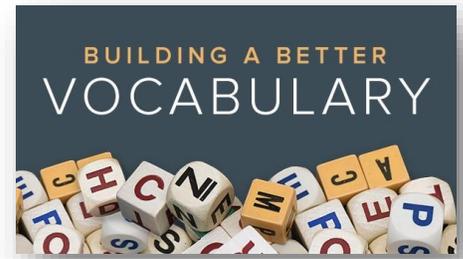
**Iso:** isolation

**Sanny:** sanitizer

**Coronasplaining:** another word for dodgy news reports and tweets

**Coronacoinages:** the word for all these terms and portmanteaus

**Panglossary:** what this list is



Adapted from *The Economist*

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