

Symeon the New Theologian – Christ's Body

We awaken in Christ's body
as Christ awakens our bodies,
and my poor hand is Christ, He enters
my foot, and is infinitely me.
I move my hand, and wonderfully
my hand becomes Christ, becomes all of Him
(for God is indivisibly
whole, seamless in His Godhood).
I move my foot, and at once
He appears like a flash of lightning.
Do my words seem blasphemous? — Then
open your heart to Him
and let yourself receive the one
who is opening to you so deeply.
For if we genuinely love Him,
we wake up inside Christ's body
where all our body, all over,
every most hidden part of it,
is realized in joy as Him,
and He makes us, utterly, real,
and everything that is hurt, everything
that seemed to us dark, harsh, shameful,
maimed, ugly, irreparably
damaged, is in Him transformed
and recognized as whole, as lovely,
and radiant in His light
he awakens as the Beloved
in every last part of our body.

— Symeon the New Theologian, (949-1022), published in [The Enlightened Heart: An Anthology of Sacred Poetry](#), edited by Stephen Mitchell



Hildegard of Bingen's *Liber Divinorum Operum* (The Book of Divine Works). 12 c

I do not have my body, *I am my body*.¹

'... the church has usually followed Plato (body and soul are enemies of one another) much more than Jesus (body and soul work together as one).'²

The Hebrew word usually translated as soul is **nephesh** which refers to a **living breathing being** or **whole being** not a **soul** separated from a body.³

Matter and therefore body can be considered as interconnected webs of energy.⁴

'Reality by its very nature is interconnectedness.'⁵

'Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus'⁶
'mind of Christ' = **'nous Christou'** (Greek) translated as **sensus Christi'** (Latin)

'nous Christou' = *Christ's own experience of knowing or sense in the way Christ senses.*

¹ Katharine Farrier, (trans). *Gabriel Marcel, Being and Having* (Winchester: Dacre Press, 1949), 157–183.

² Richard Rohr, *Nature and The Soul* (Albuquerque: Radical Grace: Summer 2011), Vol 24 no 3.

³ Phillis Tribble, *God and the Rhetoric of Sexuality* (London: SCM Press Ltd, 1992), 147.

⁴ Delio, *The Emergent Christ.*, 81

⁵ Delio, *The Emergent Christ.*, 82

⁶ Philippians 2: 5