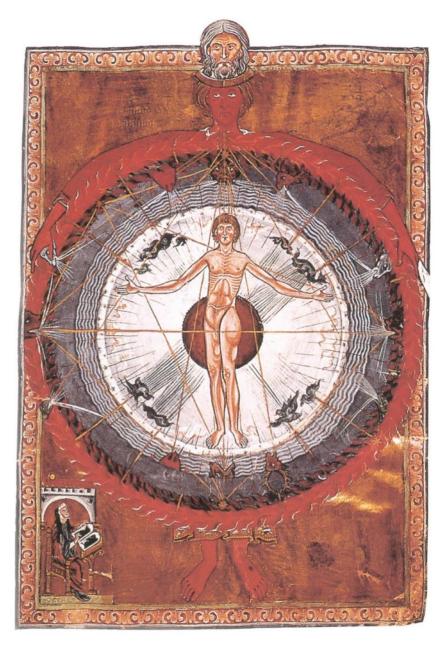
Symeon the New Theologian – Christ's Body

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 <u>The Enlightened Heart: An</u> <u>Anthology of Sacred Poetry</u>, 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.

⁴ Delio, *The Emergent Christ.*, 81
⁵ Delio, *The Emergent Christ.*, 82
⁶ Philippians 2: 5

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