

MENTAL ILLNESS AND THE CHURCH

The book: *Broken Pieces and the God Who Mends Them: Schizophrenia through a Mother's Eyes* P & R Publishing, 2019. Available on Amazon, on the publisher's website, and in most Christian online stores.

The author: Simonetta Carr can be contacted through her website: <http://simonetta-carr.com> or on Facebook and Twitter (under her name).

The video of the song with the lyrics Jonathan Carr wrote two weeks before his death can be found as Broken Pieces – Jonathan's Song at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4o70ziHYUI>

Some quotes shared in the speech (emphasis added):

Heidelberg Catechism:

Q.26 - What do you believe when you say: I believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

A. - That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and all that is in them, and who still upholds and governs them by his eternal counsel and providence, is, for the sake of Christ his Son, my God and my Father. In him I trust so completely as to have no doubt that he will provide me with all things necessary for body and soul, and will also turn to my good whatever adversity he sends me in this life of sorrow. He is **able** to do so as **almighty God**, and **willing** also as a **faithful Father**.

Q.27. What do you mean by the providence of God?

A. - The almighty and everywhere present power of God; whereby, as it were by his hand, he upholds and governs heaven, earth, and all creatures; so that herbs and grass, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, meat and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, yea, and all things come, **not by chance, but by his fatherly hand**.

Q.28 - What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things and still upholds them by his providence?

A. - We can be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity, and with a view to the future we can have a firm confidence in our faithful God and Father that **no creature shall separate us from his love**; for all creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will they cannot so much as move.

“We say such a building is a house, not only when it is tiled, painted and furnished, but while the walls are yet unfinished, while it is encumbered with rubbish and surrounded with scaffolds, which though not a part of the edifice (but are designed in time to be removed) are helpful for carrying it on. We speak of a field of wheat not only in harvest but in spring, and say “It is day,” when the light is gradually increasing, though the sun be not risen. . . . It is true there are unsound convictions, and impressions which are not abiding, but the Lord’s labourers should weed with a gentle and cautious hand, lest in their attempts to pull up the tares, they should pluck up the wheat also.

“It would be well if both preachers and people would keep more closely to what the Scripture teaches of the nature, marks, and growth of a work of grace instead of following each other in a track (like sheep) confining the Holy Spirit to a system, imposing at first the experience and sentiments of others as a rule to themselves, and afterward dogmatically laying down the path in which they themselves have been led, as absolutely necessary to be trodden by others.”

(John Newton, in Grant Gordon, ed., *Wise Counsel: John Newton’s Letters to John Ryland Jr.*, Edinburgh, UK: Banner of Truth Trust, 2011, 120-121).