

Church For Everyone – Autism Community

A God of Order
Hannah

June 2024

‘A God of Order’

- ◆ I heard a sermon at my church on this topic, and it made me wonder how this idea of God and order being inextricably linked might fit in with an autistic thought process.

The definition of order:

the arrangement or disposition of people or things in relation to each other according to a particular sequence, pattern, or method.



Synonyms of order include things like ‘procedure’, ‘rule’, ‘structure’ and ‘system’

- ◆ The specific context in which it was discussed at my church related to 'orderly worship', and God wanting his church to conduct itself in an orderly manner

This idea immediately brings 'liturgy' to mind, but it can also be applied to many other things...

- It is not 'orderly' for five people to try and make coffee whilst nobody sets out the chairs....
- Or for someone who is confused about the sermon to shout out their question in the middle of it....
- Or to play three different songs at once because nobody agreed on which one should be played...

In this sense, 'a God of order' could also mean....

'desiring things to run smoothly through cooperation as a community'

....Rather than allowing the church to become a discordant mess where each person acts for themselves without reference to anyone else.

◇ What does it mean when framed through an Autistic lens?

Some questions to get started...

If God considers order, and orderly behaviour, to be a good thing... how does this connect with the Autistic appreciation for routines, systems, and procedures?

Might the – often very rigid – Autistic interpretation of 'order' not always match with God's idea of 'order'? If so how are they different?

Considering the Autistic inclination to cling onto procedures very tightly, is there a danger that we can end up 'serving' the routine or system rather than God?

Even with God being 'A God of order' and Autistic thought processes leaning towards 'ordered thinking', are there times when 'order' is not the appropriate answer?

Community Update

Community Update

Community Update

BBC Sunday Worship Service Update

The latest from meeting with Philip Bilson (BBC Producer) yesterday (14 June);

1. We have a new broadcast date of **17 November** – Philip has undertaken not to push us back beyond that.
2. We will get contributions recorded by **31 August** (when Philip goes on holiday) – this will give us a ‘1st pass’ – giving us time to do ‘retakes or add-ins’ and complete the ‘running narrative’ of the service – intros, links etc..
3. We will record everything on Teams – the sound recording is good.
4. We will do this by me ‘meeting with’ contributors and recording the meeting.
5. I will therefore be in touch to arrange times to record.

6. I need a time to digest and plan – but will reach out sometime next



Radical Love: being an inclusive evangelical

Sat 14 Sep 2024 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Emmanuel, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 6TR

Buy tickets

SHARE THIS EVENT



NEED HELP?

Manage tickets

Hosted by St James & Emmanuel, the Radical Love conference will explore the biblical meaning of relationship and acceptance in a church truly for everyone.

Talks from Jonathan Tallon, David Runcorn and others will be supported by breakout seminars providing opportunities to discuss and share what it means to be an inclusive evangelical.

Standard fee: £80, Concessions: £50 (Over-60s, students, unemployed)

Fee includes drinks and lunch. Carers accompanying delegates are free.

View programme on the [St James and Emmanuel website](#)

LOCATION

Emmanuel, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 6TR



To Buy Tickets

Prices:

Standard: £80

Concession: £50

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/stjamesandemmanuel/1138538>

Saturday 14 September

09.00am – 17.00pm

Emmanuel Church, Didsbury, M20 6TR



A 'Church For Everyone' Webinar

Presented by: St James and Emmanuel Church Didsbury

**In association with the Centre for Autism and Theology, Aberdeen
University**

Practical Theology for Today's Church

Made in the Image of God

Imago Dei: A theological basis for 'Belonging'?

22 October 7.30-9.30 BST

Please hold the date! Registration details will be available shortly.

From Hannah . . .

My church is organising an Autism Awareness event and I am taking on leading the organisation of it. I am keen to include as much lived experience as possible, and wondered whether I could ask if people could email me if they have anything they think it is important for churches to know in terms of barriers and making churches more welcoming to us.

Ideas to Hannah by 21 June, please.

University of Manchester – opportunity for parents of autistic children to support research on motor coordination and balance in autistic children.

The survey will involve answering questions about your observations, experiences, and thoughts concerning your child's motor skills, balance abilities, and any interventions or support they may have received.

To take part, you should be a parent/caregiver of an autistic child/children aged 4-11 who does not have additional diagnosed conditions that affect movement ability (e.g Cerebral palsy). It is ok if your child has a diagnosis of Dyspraxia/DCD.

To access the survey and further information, go to this site (or use the QR code in the attached advert).

https://www.qualtrics.manchester.ac.uk/jfe/form/SV_erPOfRQgl4BDmxU

If you have any questions, please email Oun Alshahrani at

oun.alshahrani@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk