

Disability and God's People (DM223)

Australian College of Theology name: *Disability and Normality*

Unit Description

Encounter the issues, questions and dimensions of disability. Experience a unique opportunity to be met by real voices, real hearts and real experiences. Explore a Christian perspective on disability and inclusion, and be challenged to re-examine your perceptions of what it means to be disabled – as well as what it means to be human. Have opportunities to learn, reflect, discuss, and be transformed in a way that is practically significant, and will deepen ministry at all levels.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, you will:

A. Know and understand:

1. Perspectives on disability and normality

B. Be able to:

1. Outline biblical and theological perspectives on disability and normality
2. Describe contemporary legal, ethical and social attitudes to disability in their historical context
3. Identify responses to disability in Christian ministry
4. Present an evidence-based perspective on disability in Christian ministry

C. Be in a position to:

1. Use perspectives from 'Disability and Normality' for personal understanding and in ministry contexts

Content

1. Introduction to the developments of different models of describing disability, such as the medical and social models.
2. Overview of how the church has responded to and engaged with rights movements and social justice.
3. Particular Scriptures and theological concepts, including church and creation in God's image, and some of sin, divine sovereignty, justice, community, prayer, worship, hope, hospitality, salvation and healing, will be considered in the light of disability.
4. Current practices and developments (with particular reference to Australia) will be described and you will be invited to consider your own practice and perspectives.