

“Body Theology in the Love Feast”

by Anna Lisa Gross

1. While we sometimes think our earthly existence is only a prelude to eternal life in another sphere, Anna Lisa Gross argues that Brethren actually value the body highly. What are the various meanings we give to the word *body* in the Church of the Brethren? Why is it central to Brethren belief?
2. What is the difference between being individuals in the church and being the body of Christ?
3. Review the four parts of the Love Feast: preparation, the meal, footwashing, communion. Why do Brethren practice this?
4. What is your body theology? That is, how do you think God considers the material world? Is it temporary? Is it the central scene for God’s relationship to humans? Is it the location of the kingdom of God? Is it corrupt?
5. Gross wants us to think in dualities instead of dualisms. Talk about body and soul as a dualism first, as an either/or proposition. Then talk about body and soul as a duality, two natures of one thing. In what way is your religion a dualism? How is it a duality?