

Replacement Parts

I just returned from the dentist office after having a crown replaced. New technology has made this an amazing process. When it came time to measure for the crown an imaging device scanned the area and displayed a design for the crown on a computer screen. Like working with a publisher document the dentist used his computer mouse to make adjustments to the image so that a nicely sized crown will fit in the space. In effect, the dentist designed the ideal tooth, adjusting the size and shape of the synthetic tooth on the screen. When he was pleased he clicked OK and 15 minutes later a new tooth was ready to be placed in my mouth.



It is amazing what science and technology can do. Over thousands of years of research and trial & error we continue to learn about the complexity of the human body. When you look up the definition of science the word that keeps popping up is “knowledge” with some of the descriptions saying, “a state of knowing, knowledge of a system covering general truths or the operation of general laws.” Science is, in effect, a process of learning more about God’s creation. Mankind may have designed the artificial heart, replacement knees and hips and learned how to successfully transplant organs from one person to another but only God can create new life. While this has taken us thousands of years, God accomplished the original in one command and breath. As knowledgeable as we have become we can’t create another person.

Perhaps the verse that best summarizes the amazing human body is from Psalm 139:14 which says, *I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.* It is easy to take the human body for granted, just like the person who purchases a new car but doesn’t know how it works. To more fully understand the wonder of God’s creation look at some of these examples:

- The human body has a dynamic framework of bone and cartilage called the skeleton. The human skeleton is flexible, with hinges and joints that enable it to move. The body lubricates itself by manufacturing a jelly-like substance in the right amount at every place it is needed.
- The body has a chemical plant far more intricate than any industrial plant man has ever built. The body changes the food we consume into living tissue and causes the growth of flesh, blood, bones and teeth and energy. It even repairs itself when parts are damaged by accident or disease.
- The body adjusts to temperatures, with an automatic thermostat that takes care of both our heating and cooling systems, keeping body temperature consistent at about 98.6°F.
- The brain is the center of a complex computer system more wonderful than the most advanced one ever built by man. The body’s computer system computes and sends throughout the body billions of bits of information, controlling every action, often without thinking. Nerves are the wires that carry information back and forth from the central nervous system. And in just one human brain there is probably more wiring, more electrical circuitry, than in all the computer systems of the world put together.

Our bodies are only possible because of a skillful designer – God the Creator. *So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them* (Genesis 1:27). God gave us the intelligence to appreciate what He has done and to pass along knowledge of His creation to the next generation. And, we are His hands and feet to help others.

As humans we can’t build a human body, but we can continue to learn how to keep it healthy and repair it with replacement parts, like my crown. Science can bring together the elements for a test tube baby, but those elements are only created by God. God didn’t spend hours in front of a computer designing a human body for optimal performance. He just spoke it into existence and breathed its first breath into Adam. I hope we continue to gain medical knowledge but always appreciate that only God can create wondrous new life.

Question: What do you think are the most wondrous features of the body God gave you? What are you doing to keep it healthy?

Prayer: Creator God. We thank you for creating us in your image. We are so wonderfully made. We pray we will take care of your creation and use it for your purposes. Amen.