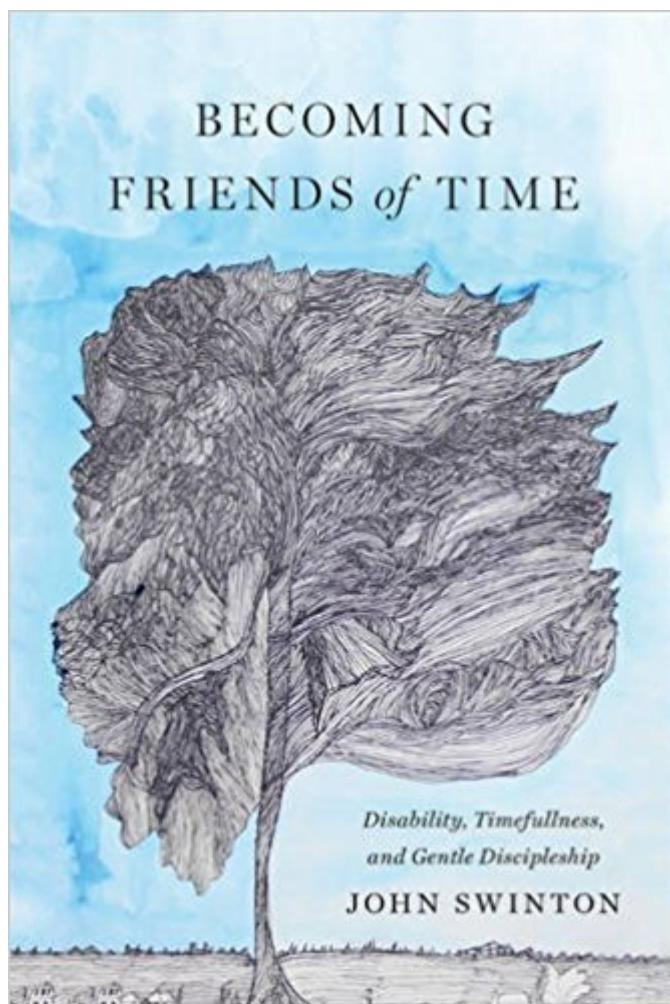


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# Becoming Friends Of Time: Disability, Timefullness, And Gentle Discipleship (Studies In Religion, Theology, And Disability)



## Synopsis

Time is central to all that humans do. Time structures days, provides goals, shapes dreams, and limits lives. Time appears to be tangible, real, and progressive, but, in the end, time proves illusory. Although mercurial, time can be deadly for those with disabilities. To participate fully in human society has come to mean yielding to the criterion of the clock. The absence of thinking rapidly, living punctually, and biographical narration leaves persons with disabilities vulnerable. A worldview driven by the demands the clock makes on the lives of those with dementia or profound neurological and intellectual disabilities seems pointless. And yet, Jesus comes to the world to transform time. Jesus calls us to slow down, take time, and learn to recognize the strangeness of living within God's time. He calls us to be gentle, patient, kind; to walk slowly and timefully with those whom society desires to leave behind. In *Becoming Friends of Time*, John Swinton crafts a theology of time that draws us toward a perspective wherein time is a gift and a calling. Time is not a commodity nor is time to be mastered. Time is a gift of God to humans, but is also a gift given back to God by humans. Swinton wrestles with critical questions that emerge from theological reflection on time and disability: rethinking doctrine for those who can never grasp Jesus with their intellects; reimagining discipleship and vocation for those who have forgotten who Jesus is; reconsidering salvation for those who, due to neurological damage, can be one person at one time and then be someone else in an instant. In the end, Swinton invites the reader to spend time with the experiences of people with profound neurological disability, people who can change our perceptions of time, enable us to grasp the fruitful rhythms of God's time, and help us learn to live in ways that are unimaginable within the boundaries of the time of the clock.

## Book Information

Series: Studies In Religion, Theology, and Disability

Hardcover: 255 pages

Publisher: Baylor University Press (September 13, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1481304089

ISBN-13: 978-1481304085

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 6.2 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #182,577 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #114 in Books > Politics &

## Customer Reviews

"With his usual insight and wisdom Swinton has written a timely book on time and disability. Swinton's work is profoundly human and humane because it is so determinatively christological. *Becoming Friends of Time* is a gift for all of us who struggle to survive in a world of speed." ¢Stanley Hauerwas, Gilbert T. Rowe Professor Emeritus of Divinity and Law, Duke Divinity School"How Swinton brings together God, time, and disability transforms the understanding not only of disability but also of church, society and ordinary life. This is a profound and moving book, both pastoral and prophetic. It takes further the insights of Jean Vanier, and above all invites us into the truth that time is for God, God is love, time is for love." ¢David F. Ford, Emeritus Regius Professor of Divinity, Selwyn College, University of Cambridge"John Swinton reckons with how people who deal with medicine (meaning most of us) reckon with time. Swinton writes as a scholar, a nurse, a father, a husband, and a Christian. Previous books on 'Time' and 'Faith' have been unhelpfully detached from people who actually navigate an earth recognizable by humans who still read books. *Becoming Friends of Time* is written for people who use their own incarnate bodies to care for others while also thinking critically about how our bodies are being used and evaluated as machines." ¢Amy Laura Hall, Associate Professor of Christian Ethics, Duke Divinity School"With characteristic wisdom and grace, Swinton's book invites us to reimagine time through rediscovering the gospel and the life of Christian discipleship in all its fullness in relation to the human experience of disability. His writing is elegant and embodies the gentle, time-full cadence it speaks about, offering a host of compelling insights along the way." ¢Thomas E. Reynolds, Associate Professor of Theology, Emmanuel College, University of Toronto"[Swinton's] theological and experiential reflections offer real ways to reimagine discipleship alongside those within life's range of varying differing abilities. Swinton acts as an important and necessary conversation partner for academics and pastors who rely heavily on 'normal' cognitive and neurological development, freeing those with rigid conceptions of practical theology to active, contextual care." ¢Adam Tobey, *Reading Religion*

John Swinton is Professor in Practical Theology and Pastoral Care at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland.

John is one of the most important theologians of our time. He integrates theological depth and philosophical coherency with the wisdom and care of someone who deeply loves not only his readers but the Church that he writes for. In what is another book added to a brilliant writing career, we can stop and say thank you to John for teaching us to slow down and receive persons with disabilities for the gifts that they and God bring to us. We owe John a deep debt of gratitude for teaching us how to live peacefully and restfully in a busy and chaotic world.

John Swinton is an original thinker. I read volumes of theology books, as a professor. Swinton's books always inspire me to think along new lines, consider new ideas. Thank you John for writing in ways that challenge me to think in new ways about disability, theology and practical theology

From the reviews I have read, I am eager to read this book, as is my wife as a volunteer chaplain at the local Health Care Center. BUT... what is the deal with the PRICE of this book?

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