

Computers are made for man, not man for computers; the state is made for man, not man for the state; the Church is made for man, not man for the Church. There's something here about both the beginning and end of time; about the beginning and end of creation – of God's creation; of the purpose for which, in one sense, creation was made; of the purpose and end of our own making. Jesus is reasserting the true end and purpose of creation when he inverts 'man' and 'sabbath'; when he exemplifies himself as also a son of man for whom the sabbath is made, with a dignity and purpose and an end which the sabbath is made to serve. If we get the order wrong, we wither. In his cure of the man with the withered hand, which immediately follows, we see this demonstrated in the most dramatic way: the man is called out to resurrection, made whole, restored to his full dignity, able to take his place once more in the full body of humanity and, in the understanding of the day, to have his sins forgiven; to be restored to God and the people of God – the true end and purpose of us all.

So this isn't just a statement about individual rights – there are no rights at issue here – but about God's purpose for us all and for all of creation. What creation is all about. When we allow computers, or the state or the Church, or any thing, to determine our end, apart from God's purpose, we are diminished, lost, prevented from being or showing ourselves to be made in God's image. Hence the passion shown by Jesus here: this anger inspired by love. For love is God's true end for us: the beginning and end for which we are made: our purpose for which no other end is to be brooked or tolerated as Julian of Norwich will later see so clearly:

I was taught that love is our Lord's meaning. And I saw this very clearly, in this and in everything, that before God made us he loved us, which love was never abated and never will be. And in this love he has done all his works, and in this love he has made all things profitable to us, and in this love our life is everlasting. In our creation we had our beginning, but the love in which he created us was in him from without beginning. In this love we have our beginning and all this we shall see in God without end.

(Showings 86:342-3)

If this love is not being shown, we have every right to be angry.

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