

**Audience questions from the ICMDA webinar with
Dr Vinod Shah - Personhood: a Christian understanding
6 October 2022**

1. Anonymous: I enjoyed your tentative exploration of biblical concepts of personhood, which should teach us appropriate humility and caution. You referred to personhood resulting from a coming together of male and female as a result of free will, but conception as a result of rape does not fit this definition. I also struggle with accepting poetic, although beautiful, very individual language (e.g. in the Psalms) as 'textbook' evidence, which we do not do in ordinary life. In the case of monozygotic twins you would also have to admit that the undivided, fertilised ovum somehow has two (or even three) personhoods in it. How have you dealt personally with these objections please?
2. Anonymous: You explained that personhood is constituted and/or 'enhanced' by being part of relationships at different levels. Could it not also be argued that self-sufficiency, obstinacy, and ignoring convention and custom are stronger evidence of being a separate person(hood)?