



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

This week's Topic: The Temptation: Handicapped Child



Education: A frequently cited exception for rejecting abortion is the case of the severely handicapped child. Some people seem to think it is kinder to kill a handicapped person than to allow them to live. But people who are disabled can still enjoy life and certainly want to continue living. Aren't we all burdened with difficulties of one sort or another? The burdens of those who have physical handicaps are simply more visible than others. Studies have shown that "Life satisfaction was not related significantly, however, to severity of physical disability. ... People who were mobile in their homes and communities

and involved in occupational and avocational interests were generally satisfied with their lives."¹

A large majority of babies diagnosed in utero with Down's Syndrome are aborted. And families who have children with that affliction often say that they are a real blessing to the family. Are we so focused on accomplishments that we value people only for what they can do instead of who they are? Do we forget that God does not make mistakes in creating his children?

1. Nosek, Margaret A., PhD; Fuhrer, Marcus J., PhD; and Potter, Carol G., RhD, "Life Satisfaction of People with Physical Disabilities: Relationship to Personal Assistance, Disability Status, and Handicap" a research brief from The ILRU Research and Training Center on Independent Living. Retrieved 8/24/11 from <http://www.independentliving.org/docs5/ResSatisfaction.html>.



Prayer: Dear Father God, please bless those individuals that are burdened with physical or mental handicaps, and help their families to care for them with love and respect. Help us all to see every individual you have created with your eyes, a child you have created in your own image. Help us to always be respectful of all your children, and to do what we can to ease the burden felt by them and their families. Give parents who have a handicapped child in the womb to resist pressure to abort and rather accept the child into their family as a gift from you.



Action: Try to be more aware of handicapped individuals you may encounter around you. Think about how you might offer to help them, while respecting their independence. If you wish to ask a question, never address their caregiver, as if the handicapped person is not capable of speaking for themselves.