

**The Truth Behind Abortion of the Handicapped:
What Our Society Isn't Seeing**

Amanda Dressel

Grade 9

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Watertown, MN

amandadressel10@gmail.com

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It was in my mom's 21st week of pregnancy that the doctors had their suspicions. Meanwhile, my eyelids and taste buds had just developed, and I was swallowing a bit of amniotic fluid each day to keep my nutrition and hydration up ("Your Baby at Week 21"). My mom was low on amniotic fluid, and the doctors told her that she would most likely give birth to a handicapped child. Standing firm in her faith, my mom prayed that God would give her the strength she needed before and after the pregnancy. I was born 18 weeks later- a healthy baby. What would have happened, though, had my mom not possessed that strength? Would she have continued the pregnancy, knowing that my life might bring her new challenges? Or would she have ended the possibility of a life with challenges through abortion? Contrary to what our society believes, the lives of the handicapped should not be ended through abortion.

Abortion of the handicapped is the worst type of discrimination. Of all the women in the United States that are given a prenatal diagnosis of Down Syndrome, 67 percent of them choose abortion (Bradford). By aborting a handicapped child, one is not only discriminating against a child for his or her disability, one is ending a life because of it. God speaks against discrimination. "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (New International Version, Gal. 3:28). God tells us that in Christ Jesus we are *one*. God sees past every cause for discrimination, including disabilities, and we should be able to see past them as well.

However, not all people are able to see past what is on the outside. Children with handicaps are underestimated every day. What is our society saying by the legalization of abortions? According to our society, the world is better off without handicapped children. This is certainly not what God shares with us. "As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!' On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor" (1 Cor. 12:20-23a). God states that we are all different, but our differences join us together in the one body of Christ.

Likewise, God has a plan for every one of us, and he reminds us of this when He says, "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to

give you hope and a future” (Jer. 29:11). If God has a plan for you and me, does he have a plan for children with disabilities? Absolutely! Through abortion, we throw away the perfect plan God has for each child, not allowing these children to ever experience the amount of joy they can find through life on this earth.

I have the opportunity to witness this joy almost every day. I see it in the cafeteria as a girl wheels herself through the crowd with her lunch on her lap and a smile on her face, letting everyone know that she’s coming through. “Scuse me!” she says. I see it in the hallways as a boy spots one of my friends and shouts, “Hurry up! You’re going to be late to class!” then flashes her his great big grin. I am unable to look at the smiles of one of these handicapped children without seeing the incomprehensible worth that they as individuals possess.

So, what can we do as Christians to stop violent discrimination against the handicapped? One of the ways we can achieve this is by spreading God’s Word and, most importantly, God’s love. Our mission as Christians is to share that though the world may tell us the lives of handicapped children will only bring us challenges, we have a God far bigger than any challenge we will ever face on this earth. God reminds us that He will supply the strength we need to not give in to the ways of the world. “Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand” (Eph. 6:13).

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