



A Christian Model of Disability: The 5 Relationships

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A Biblical Perspective on Disability

All scripture applies to all people

The individual with
impairments in
relation to God

The individual with
impairments in
relation to themselves

The individual with
impairments in
relation to the
community

The community in
relation with itself

The community in
relation to God

- ▶ Created in God's image (Genesis 1:26)
- ▶ In need of salvation (Romans 3)
- ▶ Not the result of personal sin (John 9:3-5)
- ▶ Are a priority (Luke 14:21-22)
- ▶ Not due to a lack of faith (2 Cor 12:8-10)
- ▶ Made right with God (Romans 3:22)
- ▶ Complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10)
 - ▶ "Through the roof" (Mark 2:1-12)
 - ▶ Bartimaeus (Luke 18:35-43)

The individual
with
impairments in
relation to God

- ▶ Created with a purpose (Exodus 4:11)
- ▶ Specifically created (Psalm 139:13)
- ▶ Evidence of the works of God (John 9:3-5)
- ▶ Indispensable (1 Cor 12:22)
- ▶ When I'm weak, I'm strong (2 Cor 12:8-10)

The individual
with
impairments in
relation to
themselves

- Sovereignty for community (1 Cor 12:18)
- Indispensable (1 Cor 12: 22)
- Worthy of special honor (1 Cor 12:23)
- Reveal neighbors (Luke 10:25-37)
- Desirable community members (Luke 14:21-23)
- To whom much is given (Luke 12:48)
- Suffer for doing good (1 Peter 2:20-21)

The individual
with
impairments in
relation to the
community

- **The Body of Christ (1 Cor 12:12-31)**
- **Love your neighbor (1 Cor 13:1-13)**
- **Greatest commandments (Luke 10:27)**
- **Who is not my neighbor? (Luke 10:29)**

The
community
in relation
with itself

The community in relation with God

- Sovereignty for community (1 Cor 12:18)
- No favoritism (James 2:1)
- Jesus and traditions (Mark 7:8-13)
 - Matt 9:19-22 – Woman who was bleeding
 - Matt 23 – Jesus confronting religious leaders
 - Luke 7 – Roman officer
 - John 4 – Samaritan woman
- Love brother you've seen (1 John 4:20)

So the **individual** is...

- Created in the image of God
- Created with a purpose
- As they are that the works of God might be seen
- Impairments not the result of personal sin
- Impairments not due to a lack of faith
- A priority for ministry independent of personal characteristics
- Complete in Christ
- Seems weaker but actually indispensable
- Thought less honorable but actually worthy of special honor
- Reveals character of those around

So the **community** is...

- The Body of Christ is God's design for people
- People are the way they are under the sovereignty of God for both themselves and for the community
- Within the Body of Christ there should be no favoritism shown to one group or person over another
- Inside or outside of the Christian community, everyone is a neighbor
- Should focus on relationships over programs
- If the community truly was as it should be, disability would be very different
- We are in need of cultural/tradition change

So God is...

- Is love and loves people
- Has purpose in disability
- God makes people “deaf, dumb or blind”
- Additionally, because God is all powerful, he either causes or permits disability
- God may heal people, however, it is related to his sovereign purpose, not to someone’s faith
- Promises his grace and that it will be sufficient in difficult times
- Reveals things about himself through disability, e.g. His power is made perfect in weakness

Thank you for listening!

<http://www.Jeffmcnair.com>
go to articles section to find article
about the Christian model

disabledchristianity.blogspot.com