



Imperfection In God's World

by Steve Higginbotham

Why does God permit imperfection in His world? Why are babies allowed to be born handicapped? Why do limbs not move, eyes not see, mouths not speak, and ears not hear? Why does God allow children to be born with cerebral-palsy, down's syndrome, and spina bifida? Skeptics and Christians alike struggle with the answers to such questions.

"Where is the perfection of God in view of such imperfections?"

I don't pretend to have all the answers to human suffering, but I do know there are some things that help me deal with such difficult questions. One such aid comes from a change in perspective.

What if the perfection God is looking for is in us, not the imperfect bodies of people? What if the greater perfection God desires is in our reaction to people who are imperfect?

How compassionate are you with the afflicted? How patient and understanding are you with their trials? Do they have too many troubles to make getting involved with them worthwhile? Are we inconvenienced and resentful of their demands on our time and lifestyle? Are we annoyed at their presence or at worse, embarrassed by them?

Just maybe the perfection God is looking for is in our Christ-like response to imperfect people. Instead of allowing people born with physical disabilities to shake our faith in God, should we not rather allow them to challenge us to reach toward Christ-like perfection in our response to these people?

From God's perspective, the imperfection may not be in the physically and mentally disabled, but in a healthy person's uncompassionate response to these individuals.

Give it some thought.