

CONTINUUM OF ATTITUDES TOWARDS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Uninformed Observer



"Some of the students at the Christian school where I attend have problems reading and paying attention. The teachers end up spending more time with them during class, but what they really need is extra tutoring. I'm assuming they were admitted because they are good at sports. I don't have anything against them, but I think they need to be held to the same academic standards as everyone else."

Sympathetic Bystander



"Some of the kids at my school volunteer to work with handicapped kids at annual summer respite retreats. I feel sorry for the families who have kids with physical and health issues. It must be tough to be in a wheelchair and to be so different from everyone else. I can't imagine not being able to walk or to see or to hear. I'm so glad that God has blessed my family and me with the gift of healthy physical bodies."

Active Helper



"My friends and I volunteer to help kids with disabilities by having a charity basketball event each year. We invite kids with special needs from other schools. We have a club that helps raise awareness to eliminate the R-word, and to raise money for people with disabilities. A few of us volunteered to serve food at church prom event for people with disabilities. It's cool to be able to spend time with people who need our help."

Compassionate Peer



"We have a separate classroom at our Christian school for students with disabilities. They attend chapel with us and we include them in some of our social clubs and after-school activities. I serve as a peer mentor, and it's great having them on our school campus. Our student body leadership team nominated a kid named Mike who has autism as Homecoming King so that he would feel special."

Reciprocal Friendship



"Joe is one of my best friends and he is really good at math. He's honest and he tells it like it is. I helped him practice asking a girl to the prom because sometimes he's not so good with his social skills. My other friend David makes me laugh with his funny jokes. Sometimes he asks me for help with counting change when we eat lunch in the cafeteria together. I couldn't imagine not having Joe and David at my school."