

ACCESS, 10/13 - Designer Babies

Read:

Psalms 139:13-14 // ¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

Isaiah 45:9 // ⁹ "Woe to him who strives with him who formed him, a pot among earthen pots! Does the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' or 'Your work has no handles?'"

Exodus 4:11 // ¹¹ "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?"

John 9:3 // ³ "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents [that he was born blind], but that the works of God might be displayed in him."

Big Questions:

- How do we determine a person's worth or value? Are there people who are superior?
- How much of our genetic make-up should we have control over? Do we have ultimate authority over our lives and bodies and/or our children's?

Teaching Points:

- Humans are a gift, not a product to be improved upon
- Our value as a human being goes beyond the physical or genetic, but is found ultimately in our inherent value as image-bearers of God (the Imago Dei)
- God has created each of us specifically without mistake

Discussion Questions:

- What is the *goal* of genetic modification/designer babies? What's the good/bad? What could be some concerns?
- What would you change about yourself if you could? How do you think that would change your life/you as a person?
- Is it okay to modify your body? To what extent?
- Is a taller person better than a shorter person? What about someone who has asthma? Then, does someone born with a physical or genetic condition have less value than another person? Are they *less* of a person?
- How much of your identity is based on what your genetics say you are? Can you reduce who you are to merely your genetics?

Further Resources:

- <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/down-syndrome-iceland/>
- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-s-wrong-with-designer-genes>
- https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/04/science/gene-editing-embryos-designer-babies.html?mcubz=3&_r=0