

**The apostolate of differently gifted people**  
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Comments on the EDAN document "The gift of being"

Our world is beautiful and interesting, precisely because we are different. Some of us blue-eyed, somebody brown-eyed, some blond, some red, some impulsive and quick, someone calm and balanced. And attempts to build the "perfect", emasculated, monotonous society - a utopia.

At the same time, when we meet a person, the dissimilar, dissimilar to a typical representative of the middle of society, stereotypes prevail, which are associated with a simplified, unreasonable, often externally imposed ideas about people with disabilities. This often takes place in relation to people with disabilities.

- 1). One of them is the fact that such people are not able to develop.
- 2). Another stereotype with which we can often meet: people with disabilities are aggressive. This bias is automatically leads to another: these people are dangerous and should be isolated.
- 3) Fear of people with mental development features.

The fear of unusual reactions, emotional expressions, diverse, unusual behavior that often accompany people with disabilities due to the disease. This fear is particularly associated with the lack of understanding of people that had no real experience of communication and interaction.

- 4). Among the beliefs that violate our interaction with people with special needs, play a major role in the setting that disease - is ashamed.
- 5). With regard to people with disabilities are often in general there is complete lack of faith in strengths of their personality. There is a prejudice about their absolute inferiority.

In connection with this comes the rejection of people with disabilities.

Sometimes it seems that these people live in a parallel world. "Non-existent people." Today, we speak about that people who are members of our society, every day we meet them on the streets, in stores, in the transport, they live among us, but live as if in a parallel dimension – of their lives, their experiences. Often they do not participate in public events, they are not included in the overall pace of life, they have their own purposes and meanings, its community and its own language. We are shun these people, we do not understand them.

However, the people whom we consider "disabled" people who, we think, absorb our taxes and require too much attention, have a unique potential that enriches our spiritual life.

People differently gifted. It is necessary to understand that the Church - is the ship, which, though controlled by the captain, but reach the shore of salvation, going through a stormy everyday sea, can only when each and every member of the team passenger identifies himself with the ship. And we must not talk about who is more necessary for the Church, because everyone has his own service. A ship needs not only the sails, but the ballast, or it just turn over.

Another image - an image of the Body of Christ. The apostle Paul calls the Christians parts, organs of one body, Body of Christ, i.e., Churches. But though every organ identifies itself with the whole body, he can not serve himself, but the entire body.

1 Corinthians 12:12

12. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:27

27. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

Another words:

1 Corinthians 12:22-23

22. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

23. And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

These inconspicuous members of the Church - the disabled persons and, as the God says, "the children of the small", in the old days they were called "Miserable" because they know exactly that they have a place at the God. Therefore way, each of us can become unexpectedly strong of weakness of another, and fit of the needs of others.

People who are engaged with the disabled persons, of course, are high mission, But the higher mission bear the latter, because they help to become the first Christians. That is, we can talk about "special service" people with disabilities, service, equal to Christ's mission, their special Messengership in our world, the apostolate, which fell to their fragile shoulders.

The apostolate of differently gifted people.

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