

I Would Never Do That

But Peter declared, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same. (Matthew 26:35)

Aren't there a lot of people who feel they are experts at child-rearing? They are usually the ones who have not yet had children, or for whom child-rearing occurred a generation ago. Discipline issues that seem so simple from the outside become much more complex when it involves their own child.

A certain amount of over-confidence or even arrogance naturally occurs when things go well in life. Those not being tested by any fire “assume” postures of unyielding strength. Certainly we can understand how Peter felt in that regard. After all, he was permitted to see Jesus perform some of his most incredible miracles. Peter, himself, walked on water and pulled up the nets overflowing with fish.

Yet, as the Gospels tell us, this same Peter, even after having seen the guard's severed ear miraculously restored by Jesus, later denied knowing His Master.

All of us can learn from the presumptive nature of Peter. When faced with a family or life crisis we may think we know exactly how we would handle it. But when put to the test, we find our actions betray some of our weaknesses.

Consider this example: we know that in embryonic stem cell research the child dies in order to extract the stem cells. We see Michael J. Fox, in his stage of Parkinson's disease, argue for use of embryonic stem cell research. We sympathize with his plight but take a firm stand that children cannot die so that the research that might result in the healing of those people.

Now, imagine it is your spouse needing the cure – or maybe it's you. Your children or grandchildren get weepy at the prospect of your life being shortened because of some disease. You start aggressive personal research into the problem, and you run across numerous articles which claim to hold the potential of a cure with the use of embryonic stem cells. Soon a whole new line of reasoning begins which falsely feels the loss of embryonic lives is a sad but necessary evil.

Then, like Peter, we who were once firm fall when we are tested. This temptation is common. The Apostle Paul put it this way: “For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing” (Romans 7:19).

No one is immune from the temptation to change positions. When we do make that error we find forgiveness and restoration in Christ. To prepare for the test we must continue to fortify ourselves with the truths found in God's Word. Then, we approach an uncertain future confident and aware of the temptations that lie ahead.

For additional information and resources in dealing with this life topic, visit the Christian Life Resources website at www.ChristianLifeResources.com or call us at 1-800-729-9535.