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MARK WILLS LYRICS

Don't Laugh At Me

(Allen Shamblin/Steve Seskin)

I'm a little boy with glasses
 The one they call the geek
 A little girl who never smiles
 'Cause I've got braces on my teeth
 And I know how it feels
 To cry myself to sleep

I'm that kid on every playground
 Who's always chosen last
 A single teenage mother
 Tryin' to overcome my past
 You don't have to be my friend
 But is it too much to ask

Don't laugh at me
 Don't call me names
 Don't get your pleasure from my pain
 In God's eyes we're all the same
 Someday we'll all have perfect wings
 Don't laugh at me

I'm the cripple on the corner
 You've passed me on the street
 And I wouldn't be out here beggin'
 If I had enough to eat
 And don't think I don't notice
 That our eyes never meet

I lost my wife and little boy when
 Someone cross that yellow line
 The day we laid them in the ground
 Is the day I lost my mind
 And right now I'm down to holdin'
 This little cardboard sign...so

Don't laugh at me
 Don't call me names

Don't get your pleasure from my pain
In God's eyes we're all the same
Someday we'll all have perfect wings
Don't laugh at me

I'm fat, I'm thin, I'm short, I'm tall
I'm deaf, I'm blind, hey, aren't we all

Don't laugh at me
Don't call me names
Don't get your pleasure from my pain
In God's eyes we're all the same
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Crystal

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Critical Analysis of song

11/3/01

"Don't Laugh at Me" by Mark Wills

I heard this song for the first time on country radio. The song gives several scenarios in which people are different in some way. The main chorus is "don't laugh at me." It is a song that evokes empathy. It talks about a boy with glasses, a girl with braces, a child who is outcast, a "cripple on a corner," and the "blind and deaf." Each of these characters carries the same message and don't laugh at me.

The crippled person on the corner is portrayed as homeless and not able to take care of himself. He is hungry and begging. Essentially the character is an object of pity. The way it is written, it is meant to evoke sympathy from the listener. Also, the boy with the glasses is called a geek and the child on the playground is always "chosen last." They are all meant to evoke sympathy or allow the listener to relate because they may have had a similar experience. Plus, the word "cripple" is a very harsh way of saying it. It presents a strong mental image. The language throughout the entire song is aimed at doing just that.

The characters are also portrayed more like holy innocents. The chorus says, "In God's eyes we're all the same, someday we'll all have perfect wings." It makes the characters all seem godly or going to heaven because of the hardships they are facing. The disabilities they possess are their way to perfection. It is also the way the song relates the characters to the listener. There is a line that says, "I'm fat, I'm thin, I'm

short, I'm tall, I'm deaf, I'm blind, hey, aren't we all?" The song alludes to the fact that we all essentially have something different about us or "wrong" with us.

I do not see any of the six values incorporated into the song. The characters are not contributing or have expectations. They are out from society and not portrayed as perfect until they or get wings or, in other words, death. No, it doesn't invoke a positive attitude. It simply promotes sympathy. It promotes negative attitudes because it makes all of the characters unable to take care of themselves. They all need an advocate. It gives an accurate view of most of society's views. Society wants to play advocate and pity these people, always pressing toward a goal of perfection. If the characters can find a way to be "normal" and fit into society then everything will be OK. I think the song does have a good message in that you shouldn't make fun of other people because it can really hurt them. I don't, however, like the way the characters are portrayed and the sympathy the song evokes. It is a popular song and it is easy to see why. It makes people feel good to think that they can help or feel sorry for the people in the song.