

# TO BE OR NOT TO BE

A medical-school professor once posed this medical/ethical question to his students:

"Here's a family history. The father has syphilis. The mother has tuberculosis. They already have four children. The first is blind. The second has died. The third is deaf. The fourth has tuberculosis."

Now the mother is pregnant again. The parents come to you for advice. They are willing to abort their child if you decide they should. What do you say?

After students shared individual opinions, the professor placed them into groups to make final decisions. After deliberating, every group reported that it would recommend an abortion to the parents.

"Congratulations," the professor told his class. "You just took the life of Beethoven!"

What is the lesson for us in the workplace? A person's inherent value and potential don't depend on family background or social station. God has created each person with worth and skill and promise.

The way we treat people on the job -- and the decision of whom we hire -- should not be tainted by prejudice that's based on race, economic status, appearance or handicap. This may seem like stating the obvious, but we might be surprised if we honestly evaluated the way we perceive others.

Every person has potential to add music to the great symphony called life.

*Thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb.* Psalm 139:13

--Beecher Hunter