

## Essay from the bold pastor

### #205 - Ugliest Woman in the World -

Lizzie Velásquez has been a hot topic of conversations lately. Born in Texas and of Mexican-American descent, she has an extremely rare congenital disease that only three people in the world share. Her disease prevents her from accumulating body fat, and as a result, the 26-year-old has never weighed more than 64 lbs in her entire life. Her immune system is weak, she has lost sight in her right eye at the age of 4, and even the vision in her left eye is not great. Her condition is often likened to those of patients with the Hutchinson-Gilford progeria syndrome who grow old beyond their age, but Lizzie's exact diagnosis is not yet known completely.

She has constantly been the target of bullies throughout her childhood. When she was 17, someone posted a YouTube video of her entitled "World's Ugliest Woman". The video quickly reached 4 million views, and her parents' effort to have it removed from the site went in vain.

After crying her eyes out for several nights, Velásquez, a devoted Christian, decides to stand up for herself. She becomes determined to live a happy life, and she decides to climb over life's obstacles through her faith in God. She posted videos of herself smiling and dancing, showing off how she has remained strong despite being mocked, and her video received over 8 million views. She became a sensation in various major media sources, and has continued to speak strongly against bullying. Because of this, she became the go-to person for schools to invite to give talks about bullying. She has since given a speech for the Congress, published three self-help books, graduated from a university, gotten married, and her life has become the subject of the movie "Brave Heart".  
The Bible states,

**"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."**

**Romans 8:35, 37**

It is neither religion nor its teachings that save people, instead, we are saved through the relationship that we have with Jesus Christ the living God. I tip my hat off to God's great love and Lizzie's strong faith.

10-21-2015

