

I'm in my mid-60s and married, with four adult children. I have advanced degrees from prestigious universities, a very good job, a lot of friends and am well respected in my community. I am also a pedophile. I am sexually attracted to boys in the early stages of puberty (typically ages 12-14). I've never touched a child in any way that could be considered remotely sexual, and am confident I never will. I've resisted my sex drive for more than fifty years, and I'm long past the age where acting on it is even a remote possibility. I know that many children have been harmed by pedophiles, and I refuse to do anything that could harm a child.



Nick Devin | USA
Co-founder of Virtuous Pedophiles (virped.org)

On various occasions, I've suffered from low self-esteem and even self-hatred as a result of my pedophilia, feeling that I was somehow immoral as a result of being attracted to kids, even though I never acted on that attraction. With the help of a supportive psychologist, I came to understand that there's nothing morally wrong with being attracted to children as long as I don't have sexual contact with them. I did not choose my sexual orientation, and there is nothing I can do to change it. I cannot be evil simply because I have sexual feelings that I didn't choose and can't change, so long as I don't act on those feelings. In hindsight this strikes me as obvious, but it wasn't at all obvious at the time, and the realization that I am not evil was enormously helpful.

Together with Ethan Edwards, I formed Virtuous Pedophiles in order to help people like us: people who are sexually attracted to children but are committed to resisting their sexual feelings. Our hope is to reduce the incidence of child sexual abuse by providing peer support and information about helpful resources, and to help our members lead productive, worthwhile and law-abiding lives. We also hope to educate the general public a bit about pedophilia, to reduce the stigma by letting people that there are lots of us out there, good people who are afflicted with pedophilia but successfully resist their attraction.

To those of you who are reading this, I realize that the concept of someone being sexually attracted to children is extremely distasteful to you, but I'll leave you with this. If you had a child who was unfortunate enough to be sexually attracted to children, would you want him to be alone, to feel dirty and evil, to suffer from depression and self-hatred, to possibly even become suicidal? Or would you instead want him to have access to a place where he could receive support in his efforts to resist his pedophilia?