

They're Valuable, Too

CHERYL KAYE WISNER'S MONTHLY UPDATE



MAY 2014

Dear Family and Friends,

Meet Max. He claims to be a pro-choice, liberal, utilitarian, moral relativist. He is an atheist who supports same-sex marriage. He struggles with autism, grew up in extreme poverty, and his two best friends are in jail. He was called a “psychopath” by his family because he believes differently than they do.

Meet Arielle. She grew up Jewish, but when she was twelve she decided that God does not exist. She used to think that humans have value, but now she is not sure. She is, however, extremely concerned with how we treat our planet and about the issue of overpopulation. She smokes marijuana several times a day to ease her overwhelming panic and stress. She is also passionate about the war on drugs because she doesn't want to go to jail for a non-violent crime.

In many ways, I am a direct contrast to Max and Arielle. I don't hold to the same views that they do. In fact, I disagree with their views strongly.

But, Max and Arielle are just as valuable as I am. The way they describe themselves does not define who they are. They are human beings who have intrinsic value because they were created in the image of God.

In my conversations with Max and Arielle, it would have been really easy for me to feel that I am a “better” person than they are. I could have thought, “They obviously have deep issues that aren't my personal struggles. We obviously have two different approaches to living life. I'm obviously a greater human being because I believe more true things, right?”

It would have been easy for me to keep following this train of thought; that is, until opening my Bible to Philippians 2:3 and reading, “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” Whether I was believing true things or not, my view needed to be one of humility and one that considered Max and Arielle more significant than myself. Does this mean that they held correct views? Not necessarily. It means that I needed to value them, love them, and treat them with respect.

If we really cared for people who disagreed with us, we would not treat them as lesser human beings. Instead, we would serve them like Jesus would serve them.

Thinking of Max and Arielle, I reflect on Matthew 20:28 where Jesus says, “The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve...” I want my life to model Jesus' life, and so I want to serve those around me, even those who disagree with me.

How did I aim to serve Max and Arielle? By seeking to understand their views. By listening to them share their stories. By agreeing with them when I could. By thinking that maybe if I tried, I could learn something from them.

People who disagree with me are not stupid. They are not to be demonized. Their views may be foolish and incorrect, but that doesn't determine their worth as people. As human beings created in the image of God, they are to be loved, valued, and pointed to the truth. If we really cared for people who disagreed with us, we would not treat them as lesser human beings. Instead, we would serve them like Jesus would serve them.

We have opportunities all around us to love and serve those who disagree with us. Whether it's with our family members, our friends, our church members, our co-workers, or people who briefly cross paths with us, there are plenty of opportunities to set our pride aside and be a servant of all. It will be challenging because being like Jesus takes work, but obedience is worth it. And the joy that comes from obeying is worth it, too.

Love in Jesus,

Cheryl Kaye



JUSTICE FOR ALL TRAINS THOUSANDS TO MAKE ABORTION UNTHINKABLE FOR MILLIONS, ONE PERSON AT A TIME.

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