

“Do we even matter?”

The words of this Kansas University student still haunt me. I approached this young man staring at the ugly exhibit much the same way I approach most people...

Have you ever seen pictures like these before?

The stunned looking student answered benignly.

No, I don't think so.

In my attempt to kickstart conversation, I asked this young man (Michael),

Well, what do you think?

That's a pretty open ended question, "What do you think?" ...about what in particular, Michael might have asked. Life in general, the possibilities of time travel, global warming, the new value menu at McDonald's...I may have been too open ended with my questioning, but Michael stayed on the obvious subject at hand.

I'm Christian, so I guess I'm pro-life... Michael said this with a lack of enthusiasm.

I followed up his half-hearted response with,

Do you think there is ever a situation when abortion is ok?

I'm trekking along in the conversation with only one topic on my mind, abortion. Michael apparently had something entirely different but equally weighty on his mind. He blindsides me with this question.

I don't know. I'm even wondering if it even matters at all.

What do mean Michael? If 'what' matters at all? I asked.

Do we even matter? Michael blurted out.

Shocked at the sudden 180 degree turn the dialogue had just taken, I paused for a moment to get my bearings. I enjoy seeing conversations move in the direction of understanding human value in light of being image bearers of God...but for some reason my head was not in the game at all.

I had approached the young man with an attitude of, "I know where this is going, what you're thinking and I'm going to respond with this pre-fashioned set of answers." I was thankful for the humbling direction things had taken. I had to start thinking about Michael as an individual.

Michael, you said earlier you are a Christian. If that is true, then you must believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was sent to die for you because you matter. I believe that Jesus was innocent of any sin but died for our sins in our place. The unborn children I'm here to speak on behalf of are debatably the most innocent among mankind, but they are dying because of our sin. That matters to me! Does that matter to you?

Michael's face seemed to light up. I believe the Holy Spirit was doing an unseen work in this young man's heart! He said he wasn't going to church or reading the Word. I encouraged him to walk in the light. I shared with him how easy it is for us to be pulled away from God. Like all of us, Michael he needed some Christian friends in his life to help him walk with Jesus on a daily basis.

We prayed together and before he left I asked him to do me a favor and pray for me.

I love how God never ceases to amaze, shock and humble me on campus. The people I meet end up blessing me more than I probably do them. I'll always be thankful for the lessons Michael taught me that day.