



The Kulas Kronicle



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One Half of One Question Makes One Think

Cameron: Don't ask me that, man!

Paul: Why?

Cameron: Because you will make me look like a jerk*!



Cameron thought our display was over the top. But he thought it was over the top, primarily because we care so much about these “helpless non-contributing humans” (his words describing unborn children). We shouldn't need to spend so much time caring for the unborn even if they are human, because they can't contribute to society. According to Cameron, people have value only to the extent that they can contribute. If you contribute greatly, then you have great value. If you are disabled or can't contribute for some other reason, then you have little or no value.

Cameron's perspective was a callous one, and I wasn't certain he cared about much of anything. As we talked further it seemed like he was either trying to provoke me (sort of press my buttons), or he really lacked compassion in general.

Like many students, Cameron believed that morals are relative, that societies change, and therefore, things that are wrong for one society could be considered right for others. To see how strongly he held to that view, I asked, “If that is true, the act of a father who feeds his daughter would be equivalent to a father who...”

Cameron interrupted me as he saw where I was going, “Don't ask me that, man!” I asked why this was

objectionable to him. Cameron frustratingly responded, “Because you will make me look like a jerk!”

I queried him by asking, “If morals are relative, then why would you look like a jerk? It would seem that there would be nothing good and nothing bad, so how could someone be perceived as a jerk with that view of the world? All virtues would be equivalent with all vices in that world.” Reluctantly, he then allowed me to ask the question fully: “So would a father who feeds his daughter be the moral equivalent of a father who molests his daughter?”

To his credit, Cameron knew he couldn't agree with that implication of his view. Although it wasn't clear that he completely switched his view, it was clear that my question had caused him to pause for long enough to reconsider things. In addition to casting doubt on his view, I provided him with an alternative perspective regarding humans. We humans are significant and special apart from how much we contribute and regardless of cultural views.

I explained that humans are special not based on what they can do, but based on what kind of being they are. All humans have equal rights because they have the same humanness, or human nature. The unborn have that same human nature so they should be treated equally. We also discussed why human nature is valuable: God made humans in His image and set human beings apart from other living things, like plants and animals. (I am only summarizing here, and I hope to share more about this in a future letter.)

Although this explanation of human value didn't satisfy Cameron while we talked, I pray that on further reflection he starts to value both born humans and unborn humans, whether they contribute greatly or not.

In Christ,

Paul G. Kulas

*He used a different word here, but I sanitized his language for this letter. :-)