



# THERE IS NO ASTERISK

CHANGING ATTITUDES ABOUT DIFFERENCES  
USING THE 5 STAGES

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# Introduction

I hope you don't care about people with disabilities.

No, I mean that. I am hoping you don't actually think about, prioritize, spend time with, or know anyone with a disability. Because if you don't care, then you are exactly who I was hoping for. I want to talk to you.

This book(let) is for the person who doesn't care: the guy who has never even met someone with a disability, the woman who worries that the autistic kid in her child's class might somehow have a negative impact on her child.

This book is for people who don't care about people with disabilities and who could stand to change their attitude.

*But, why would you want to do that?*

What if I told you that your church would be better for everyone if it included people with disabilities? What if making your

business more accessible could actually improve your profits? What if adding children with special needs to your child's classroom could actually improve your kid's grades?

Maybe that hits home for you. But maybe there's an even more important reason to change your attitude.

Maybe you should change your attitude simply because God created you, and He created me. He calls us both to serve Him, to glorify Him, to use our gifts and talents in service to His kingdom.

All that is true of both of us, even though *I have a disability*.

I talk funny, and yet God still has the same calling on me that He does on you. He has gifted me and my other friends with disabilities as generously as He has gifted you.

I hope you don't care right now, but I hope you can see why that should change. And by the end of this book, I think you'll wonder why you haven't changed your attitude already.

It's time for people with disabilities to belong in your church, in your school and business, and in your life. Not because we deserve it, or because we're just as important as you, but because of God.

He called us to encourage one another, and build each other up (I Thessalonians), to make disciples (Matthew 28).

And He didn't add an asterisk to those commands.

He doesn't exempt anyone from His call, from doing the good works that were prepared in advance for each of us to do (Ephesians 2). Every person is created in God's image, with a purpose in His kingdom, with value to His church, and without exception. There is no asterisk on God's call that says "except for people with disabilities."

*"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

*- Ephesians 2:10*

People with disabilities are supposed to be part of our missional communities, our churches. Why?

Because there is no asterisk.

