

**Let's go on a journey.**



# Stage 1

## IGNORANCE



**awareness**

*Weaknesses and disabilities may be a result of sin or lack of faith. I am uncomfortable around people with disabilities and will stay away from them.*

*(Matthew 20:30-31 – The crowd rebukes two blind men)*



## Stage 2

# PITY



**access**

*I am blessed by God and I can help others. I am grateful that my children are not disabled. I feel sorry for those who are and want someone to help them.*

*(Psalm 72:13 – He will take pity on the weak and the needy)*



## Stage 3

# CARE



# integration

*Like me, people with disabilities were created in God's image. By that virtue alone, they have worth. I will gladly support ways to care for them.*

*(Matthew 25:40 – Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for Me.)*



## Stage 4

# FRIENDSHIP



**engagement**

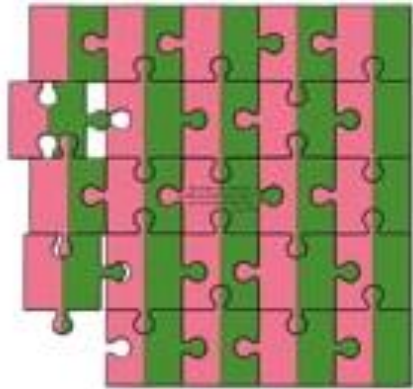
*I have come to know and spend time with a friend who has a disability. This person has value in God's sight, but also in mine. My life is better for knowing this person.*

*(Romans 15:13 – Accept one another, then just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.)*



## Stage 5

# COLABORER



*If God has called each of us to serve and praise Him with every fiber of our beings, then He has done the same for our brothers and sisters in Christ with disabilities. We can give and we can all receive.*

*(I Corinthians 12:27 – Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

*Ephesians 2:10 – For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.)*





# the 5 stages

## changing attitudes

A RESOURCE OF ELIM CHRISTIAN SERVICES

### STAGE 1: IGNORANCE

Weaknesses and disabilities are a sign that God either does not care or is not able to fix the situation. In fact, they may be a result of sin or a lack of faith. God is not involved in the life of someone with a disability, because He can't use people who are so broken. I do not know people with disabilities, nor do I know anything about disabilities. I have no interest in getting to know them or to know more about their life.

### STAGE 2: PITY

I feel sorry for people with disabilities. It's too bad, really. I am blessed by God and I can help others. I am grateful that my children are not disabled. People with weaknesses and disabilities obviously need someone like me to help them and give them meaning, due to their troubles. I really don't see any meaning or purpose to their lives.

### STAGE 3: CARE

Like me, people with disabilities were created in God's image. By that virtue alone they have value. I hope that someone will take the time to show them God's love, and I will happily support such an effort. In fact, I think we need to find ways to help those people. Maybe we should start a special church education class, or respite care for the sake of the parents.

### STAGE 4: FRIENDSHIP

I have come to know and spend time with a friend who has a disability. This person has value in God's sight, but also in mine, and I know that my life is better for having known this person, and as much as I have helped her, she has also blessed me. In fact, I now like to initiate relationships with people who have disabilities. God brings many different people into my church and community, including people with disabilities, and we all benefit as we grow in friendship with each other.

### STAGE 5: CO-LABORERS

If God has called each of us to serve and praise Him with every fiber of our beings, then He has done the same for our brothers and sisters in Christ with disabilities. I think ministry should not just be to people with disabilities, but with or alongside people who have disabilities. Together, we will encourage and equip each other, with and without disabilities, into every good work to respond to God's call on our lives. We can all give and we can all receive.

AWARENESS

ACCESS

INTEGRATION

ENGAGEMENT



SCAN THIS CODE OR GO TO  
[WWW.THE5STAGES.COM](http://WWW.THE5STAGES.COM) FOR MORE  
INFORMATION AND RESOURCES.

"THE 5 STAGES: CHANGING ATTITUDES" IS COPYRIGHT © 2009,  
DAN VANDER PLAATS  
WITH THANKS TO ELIM CHRISTIAN SERVICES, DISABILITY CONCERNS CRC,  
DISABILITY CONCERNS RCA, JONI AND FRIENDS, AND MANY OTHERS

