

This I Believe

I believe that social class is inevitable. I believe that we are unfortunately separated into different groups based on the amount of money we obtain on a yearly basis, the kind of car we drive, the color of our skin, the religion we choose to support, and the list goes on and on. The truth of the matter is, every single person on this earth holds a certain social status that becomes eternally attached to their name. Once you are given this status, it is nearly impossible to obtain a new one. The sad thing is, is it takes a very sincere and genuine person to look beyond these social blockades to truly learn about a person and there story.

Having grown up in what used to be a small town called Wylie, Texas; I thought that everybody was the same. Being young and naïve, it appeared to me that everybody was equal. We all had a building we could go home to, a metal box with wheels on it so our parents could get us from place to place, food to eat at snack time, shoes to wear at recess, and crayons to color with in class. My innocent mind saw everyone as a normal person. Everybody seemed to have a good heart. Oh how I was wrong.

When I reached the ripe age of fourteen, and was entering my first year of high school I began to take notice of the horrendous social class system that we have in America today. As weeks passed I noticed the cliques beginning to form. There was the rich popular girls, the not so wealthy boys, the trailer trash people, the nerdy gamers, the jocks, the cheerleaders, etc...It was clear that people feel most comfortable around people that they feel are the same as them. People like to surround themselves with others in the same social class as themselves. In high school all that mattered were what brand of clothes you wore, what type of car you drove, and what your boyfriend looked like. If any of these categories fell short of amazing you could expect hateful comments and negative attention from the peanut gallery of people that thought their opinion

meant the most. It made absolutely no sense to me. However it did make me more observant, I actually took note of everyone's social class as well just for my own sake. After the long four years of high school I made it a promise to myself after seeing innocent people get bullied just because their clothes weren't top notch, that I would always look beyond social stigmas in other people and not make judgments based on it.

Unfortunately the people in today's society see money as a status symbol, which it obviously is. The amount of money that you have not only affects the way that people view you and treat you, but it also affects your ability to chase your dreams. The more money you have, the more control you have. The less money you have, the more you are looked down upon and the less voice you have in society. It is almost as though your opinion does not matter if you're poor. So I guess what I am trying to say is maybe that the old saying is true, money really can buy happiness. Or at least that's how it appears.

So here I stand with a voice so small compared to this giant opinionated world, saying that social class is absolutely unavoidable. Where ever you turn it is there to follow without a doubt. The strain that this system puts on one's ability to live life to the fullest can be heart breaking, but for others the happiness that it brings to their life is amazing. The only choice we have to make as civilized humans is whether we can look past the dollar signs to give people a chance, or whether the money will consume our life forever.