

# Atheist Becomes a Kingdom Citizen

This quote was shared at one of our Sunday gathering:

*“Christianity was also, to my surprise, radical – far more radical than the leftist ideologies with which I had previously been enamored. The love of God was unlike anything which I expected, or of which I could make sense. In becoming fully human in Jesus, God behaved decidedly unlike a god. Why deign to walk through death’s dark valley, or hold the weeping limbs of lepers, if you are God? Why submit to humiliation and death on a cross, in order to save those who hate you? God suffered punishment in our place because of a radical love. This sacrificial love is utterly opposed to the individualism, consumerism, exploitation, and objectification, of our culture.*

*Just as radical, I realized, was the new creation which Christ began to initiate. This turned on its head the sentimental caricature of ‘heaven’ I’d once held as an atheist. I learned that Jesus’ resurrection initiated the kingdom of God, which will “bring good news to the poor; release the captives, restore sight to the blind, free the oppressed.”<sup>1</sup> To live as a Christian is a call to be part of this new, radical, creation. I am not passively awaiting a place in the clouds. I am redeemed by Christ, so now I have work to do. With God’s grace, I’ve been elected to serve – in whatever way God sees fit – to build for His Kingdom. We have a sure hope that God is transforming this broken, unjust world, into Christ’s Kingdom, the New Creation.”<sup>2</sup>*

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1 – Luke 4:18

2 – Sarah Irving-Stonebraker (May 31, 2017) “How Oxford and Peter Singer Drove Me From Atheism To Jesus”  
([www.theaquilareport.com/oxford-peter-singer-drove-atheism-jesus](http://www.theaquilareport.com/oxford-peter-singer-drove-atheism-jesus))