**This I Believe**

One lesson taught in life is to use good judgment. How to behave. How not to behave. What to say. What not to say. Where to go. Where not to go. Who to trust. And who **not** to trust. But how are these judgments made? What are they based on? I believe it’s all our own perception.

We all know there are generally clear lines on what is considered acceptable behavior, things to say, or places to go, but how are people are judged? Or better yet, why are people judged? Things like their interests, clothing style, and skin color are usually the basis of our judgments, when in reality those things are perceived differently by everyone.

Being from a small town, I made judgments a lot. Everyone knew everything about each other which made it easy to form our own opinions of their lives. I never realized how much time we all waste analyzing each other, and what for? We don’t decide who are leading good lives, or who has done the most wrong, God does. The time I spent analyzing other peoples’ lives was only causing harm. I just made myself more self-conscious and tainted the perspectives of others around me.

I believe that everyone has something to contribute to this world. We were all hand-made and given certain qualities for a reason. Every little quark or flair or unique quality a person has was given to them by the judge Himself. We as a society don’t need to waste our time judging the quality of God’s work. The time used to analyze each other should better be spent actually getting to know the person’s true self.

I believe that the beauty of others is often tainted by our slanted perceptions. No one has a right to judge another person. Every person will face their judgment someday, but in the meantime we should better prepare each other for it instead of diminishing our own chances and the chances of others. Put every effort into a positive lifestyle; create a new positive perception. Live a life that betters both you and the people around you. I believe that this is possible.