

BROKEN NOT USELESS

Does "broken" automatically mean discard it ?
Chuck it or fix it?

Everyone talks about the "throw-away age we live in. No one expects anything to last. I can remember my dad, a farmer collecting old bent nails from a broken box and while straightening them on the anvil, proudly explaining, "They're still good! Just need a bit of straightening out."

I stumbled on this picture on a web page that gave ideas on reusing a broken pot. (search: bluefoxfarm.com)

Society, including you and me, often espouse the idea of fostering a caring community, which shows many ways. But I wonder if some people feel an attitude towards them of "You are broken, of no value and only fit to be cast aside and even further shattered."



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It takes time and effort to be involved in putting something back together, and lives are much more challenging to fix than pots. Often we want to help someone repair their life, help them see and feel they are of value and can bring beauty to our community. But then comes the feelings of inadequacy, the question of "How?"

A man called Jesus spent his whole life making people complete. How?

He always stopped. He listened. He didn't judge. He encouraged. He demonstrated care and love. He showed some people where they were wrong in their choices and decisions according to God. He advised, "Put God first and seek to live according to his ways" (**Matthew 6:33**), but he did it with an attitude of love. He talked about and demonstrated forgiveness – even as they hung him on a cross. (**Luke 23:34**) God's whole mission is to, through Jesus, strengthen and lift the downhearted. (**Psalm 145:14**)

The remarkable thing about Jesus is how relevant his words are to everyone.

To the person wanting to build up another but feels inadequate and afraid, he says, "Peace I leave with you; my Peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

At the same time, he says to the one feeling broken and cast aside, "Peace I leave with you; my Peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." (**John 14:17**)

If you feel broken and need healing, talk to Jesus, and ask him for his Peace.

If you want to help and do his will, but are unsure and afraid, talk to Jesus and ask him for his Peace.

God bless,
Kevin.