

The Authority of Value

There was an article in the Star Tribune on March 3, 2024 called Angry as Boys, Violent as Men. Myron Medcalf wrote the article and presented a message that the violence we see from men starts with a lack of support for these men as children. Mr. Medcalf gives education, food and shelter and especially emotional development as areas where we as a society have failed these boys.

A further question stands out to me: what are we teaching our youth about the value of life?

Do our youth believe their lives matter? Why or why not?

Do our youth believe others' lives matter? Why or why not?

What are we telling our children about life? Legally, MN allows a woman in the 40th week of a healthy pregnancy to have an abortion if she and her doctor decide to do that (ag.state.mn.us) That baby might be a day away from being born. It has NO rights in our state. Are we really saying "If another human being is dependent on you and you don't want to care for them you can dispose of them. That's your RIGHT."?

What are we telling each other when someone hurts them? "Forget them! You don't need them! They aren't worth having in your life!"? What if our children hear that same message when they hurt someone else? Do they think they aren't worth forgiving or trying to work things out with?

What are we telling each other about gender or sexual orientation? "You are whatever you feel like today"? Aren't we more than our feelings and inclinations? The message "It's okay to be whatever you feel you are." may sound really freeing, but it can also sound like "You don't matter. There's no greater purpose for you so it doesn't matter who you think you are.". Is there no solid, unchangeable foundation outside of ourselves that will help us, especially our children, learn who we are?

Where does value come from? I can't manufacture it. If I can't manufacture it, it's not mine to eliminate. What if each person has value just because they exist? What if they are created by a God who loves them unconditionally and has a plan and a purpose for their lives? What if we can help them discover that value and love, helping them live up to their fullest potential, navigating the challenges that come their way and helping others do the same?

We may preach kindness and tolerance, but if our highest motivation is to take care of ourselves, we will ultimately become a hateful and chaotic society. On the other hand, if we humble ourselves and look out for the good of others we can become a loving, generous, safer society. Each of us will contribute to one society or the other, whether we realize it or not. What are you contributing to?