

The Lost Generation: Floundering In A Godless Non-Judgmental World

By Mark Belling

When I was 21, I knew of only one kid in my generation that had committed suicide. Kids today of that age could name 10. It's a fair guess that half the public high schools in southeastern Wisconsin have at least one suicide every two years.

The opioid problem is beyond an epidemic. As a baby boomer I've had a front row seat to the entire drug crisis from LSD and marijuana to the pills, heroin and legalized pot of the current decade of the teens. I have never seen anything like the current heroin problem.

Counselors tell me that they have never seen so many kids living in their own alternate realities, worshipping odd "gods" and fantasies, dabbling in Goth and Satanism. The two "Slender Man" girls weren't as unusual as we think. The attempted murder they tried was different but an astonishing number of kids are confusing comic books, video games and other artificial images as some sort of supernatural reality.

In the meantime, people are having a harder time than ever coping with life's normal setbacks. Coddled snowflake kids can't go anywhere without their "emotional support dogs." Counselors carpet-bomb schools whenever a kid dies. We even have universities and high schools (!) bringing in petting dogs to ease the stress of upcoming exams.

Something is very wrong here. We are producing a generation of extremely nice, extremely self-centered young people with the emotional development of infants. They are unable to cope with basic life and are running to drugs, Slender Man and petting dogs to get through the day. The type of problems inherent to human life are so overwhelming many are just killing themselves.

They are desperately looking for something—ANYTHING!!!!—to help them deal with life. But they aren't finding it. The pills just make them addicts. The comic book and video heroes make them depressed and anti-social. The devil just makes them darker. They are lost. LOST.

The schools do nothing for these kids because they are not allowed to even talk about the one thing that is missing in these lives. The popular culture is even worse. It too creates false saviors and glorifies horrible personal life choices.

The parents are usually well-intentioned but they are committing parental malpractice. They are coddling the kids that need to be toughened up for life. They are setting no limits for people entering a world that is defined by limits. They have bought into the toxic moral relativism that declares no ideas are right or wrong and that every decision is valid. Instead of

guiding decisions and imposing morality they are leaving these kids emotionally abandoned and bring in a dog to pet when things start crashing.

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This is what happens in a world that has abandoned God.

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He's been kicked out of the schools. The mere mention of His name draws ostracism. Many parents raise their children without ever introducing God into their lives. Some kids know Slender Man better than Jesus. Many take a pill instead of saying a prayer. And, when things seem too unbearable they kill themselves because they are literally unaware that there is a God who can help them.

We live in world obsessed with the present. Be happy NOW! Get hundreds of Facebook "likes." Avoid challenging ideas and hide out in the safe space. Reject judgmental-ism and rationalize that all of your decisions are great. Feel bad; pet the dog. Feel worse. Take heroin. Keep chasing the instant happy.

Believing in God doesn't give you that instant gratification. The whole point of Christianity is to prepare you for the next world. The goal isn't to be perfectly happy now but to find perfect happiness in the salvation of heaven.

A lot of people don't want to hear this. They try to force their atheism on to everyone else. They reject the notion of a great big God deciding right and wrong and they really reject the idea of Jesus. They would prefer that columns like this one not even be allowed to be in the paper.

And, they are getting their way. God and religion are now so private and so personal that we aren't even allowed to talk about it in public society. We have purged it from the awareness of a generation that is, as a result, starving for spirituality and chasing it in pills and fantasy not knowing it is a lot easier to find in a God that they have never even been told about.

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OK, so this column is uncharacteristic. I'm not a priest or a preacher and I'm hardly on the short list for canonized sainthood. In fact, I'm hardly anyone to talk. But I am aware of my surroundings. It is devastatingly clear that we are letting a generation of millennials drift in the wind. Every indication is that Generation Z behind them is even more bubble-wrapped and sheltered from everything from standards to the knowledge of a judgmental, opinionated but loving God. They are emotionally weak because human beings on their own are inherently weak.

This isn't working.

Here's what is. The families that are raising their children with God in their lives are mostly producing better-adjusted kids. Those that are aggressively disciplining and setting standards are producing people thriving in an adult world. This is true not just in affluent suburbs but the central city. Even in low income, high-crime areas kids being sent to religious schools by parents of faith are, by and large, avoiding gangs and crime and turning out just fine.

The millennials that were either raised with, or have chosen on their own, faith are happier and stronger than their contemporaries. Saying the Our Father every day works a lot better than taking heroin every day.

Despise the message if you want. But it is as true as it has ever been. The evidence is overwhelming.