

What's the Price of a Life?

When the busyness of life come to a momentary halt, my mind often wanders. During these months of the Covid-19 pandemic, I've had a great deal of time—too much time—to think, and this question has weighed on me more persistently than ever. What's the price of a life? Every day, stories are thrown my way about lives lost. It's so discouraging. I know I'm not alone in feeling this way. In September, World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom called the apathy toward the soaring number of Covid-19 deaths “moral bankruptcy.” “Every life, whether it's young or old,” he pleaded, “is precious, and we have to do everything to save it.”

What caused Director-General Adhanom to make such a zealous plea? Perhaps he recognizes the voice inside each of us reminding us we are born for a specific purpose! Maybe he is thinking of the uniquely human capacity to love, our desire to create, or our hunger for adventure. It could be that his angst comes from his own deep grief over losing a loved one. Undoubtedly, nothing wakes someone up quite like grief. In sorrow, we would do anything to rewind back to the way it used to be. If only we could shake the Etch-a-Sketch. Knowing there is nothing we can do to annul the loss, we despair. Michigan rapper Derek Minor speaks to the same anguish with his song lyrics which read, “So in blood he was willing to pay. What's the price of a life? Yeah.”

So now, more than ever, I am pro-life. Here's why: Covid-19 has galvanized my conviction that although we cannot bring back any life once it has been lost, we must fervently guard every life that is here and yet to come. Moreover, we must speak most loudly for the lives who cannot speak for themselves—for the elderly, the disabled, and the unborn. Their inability

to speak does not diminish their purpose, their value, or their capacity to love and be loved in return. What's the price of a life? In Director-General Adhanom's words, "Every life... is precious, and we must do everything to save it." He said "everything." He did not list exceptions. Obviously, I cannot guard every life on my own. However, scanning my circle of influence, I can make large and small choices each day to show esteem for the lives around me—choices to speak up, to encourage, to look for and call out the value I see in everyone I meet.

Perhaps it doesn't feel like you have a choice. Regardless of the odds stacked up against a life, or the justifications for looking away, once a life is gone, you can't get it back, and you can't shut out the grief. One bad decision doesn't necessitate another. There's no Etch-a-Sketch to shake and start over. I am pro-life because the voice inside me cries out for the lives who can't speak for themselves—the voice that reminds me every life is priceless.

References

Derek Minor – Price of Life. (2019, October 04). Retrieved September 29, 2020, from <https://genius.com/Derek-minor-price-of-life-lyrics>

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