

From the Family Room

**Creekwood Church of Christ
Mobile, AL**

27 January, 2019

FOUR QUALITIES WE MUST BUILD IN OUR CHILDREN

*...he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. Hebrews 11:10
But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge 2 Peter 1:5
But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine
Daniel 1:8*

Almost every day I come to a common conclusion as I observe the behavior of young people and older people in different settings. This includes students in school, young people and older people away from school, on social media, and in the entertainment media. There seems to be a drift away from some fundamental qualities that are necessary for properly functioning human relationships. God teaches these in His inspired word – the Bible. **Tim Elmore** recently wrote the following article on this subject in “**Growing Leaders.**”

I am concerned we adults are not helping young adults navigate their lives. We are losing what I consider to be timeless qualities. May I suggest four lost characteristics we need to be intentional about instilling in kids:

Vision – *This is the ability to see a goal in the future before it is reached. A vision is a picture of a better tomorrow. Many students must simply envision themselves graduating; others must envision what their career might look like; or how a committed relationship would work in their lives. Those who are already self-actualized must see themselves adding value to the world. Vision is a blueprint for the future that prevents youth from merely existing; to keep them from maintaining instead of growing and improving.*

Virtues – *Virtues are character qualities that separate humans from animals. When animals fight, they don't fight about who's right or wrong, but who's strong or weak. Remove virtues and people begin acting like animals. Ironically, the Greek root for “virtue” means strength. But it refers to moral strength. A person of virtue is honorable; they don't act merely out of self-interest, as a reptile does when it seeks food to eat, but in the interests of others. People of virtue act with civility in the face of adversity; they can be poised because they act instead of react to situations.*

Values – *Values today are either lost altogether in young people or they are products of individual taste or personal convenience. Studies show that college students say anything can be right and values come and go. I believe we must instill a set of timeless values that govern conduct—values such as honesty, service, trust, character, dependability and so forth. Values are like a compass that reveals your true north: they're the guardrails to keep you on the right road and the horsepower behind every major decision you make.*

Valor – *Valor is rarely spoken about today. It literally means strength of mind or spirit that enables a person to encounter danger with firmness and personal bravery. The true mark of valor is the absence of indecision even in the face of death. In the past, we spoke of soldiers or knights who acted with valor. Today, I believe we need to regain this quality that empowers young people to have clarity about what must be done and the courage to act on it.*

We have many young people at Creekwood that exhibit the four qualities listed above. This indicates the diligent work our parents are doing in training their children according to God's word. **Keep up the good work!** We stand on firm ground when we use the Bible as our basis for teaching fundamentals to our children. Fundamentals are not always fun but it is a fact that they are always essential to success. May our children and grandchildren live long lives of service to God and their fellow man.

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