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MFT 603B: Individual and Family Development

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Chapter Presentation: Week 4

1. Chapter 1 in “The Myth of Closure” by Pauline Boss, I found it interesting how the author’s views were easily distinguishable in her text. While discussing ambiguous loss during COVID-19, the author almost shames all of the people who refused to get vaccinated. She starts off by stating in the preface, “When all collective response is needed to save lives, tempering our need for individual rights is a sign of resilience.” (page xxi). Due to many people rejecting the vaccine, she states through this that people should give up their individual rights for the greater good. However, in chapter 1, she brings up the topic of racism and states, “I think of those whom the larger societies or people in power deemed less worthy, who were persecuted for their beliefs or sold off or unjustly singled out for their skin color.” (page 14). I understand her points and how it is horrible to be rejected by your skin color and I understand her stance on being pro-vaccine as she lost her husband to COVID however, I find it interesting how on one page she condemns individual rights for the “greater good” and then brings up the injustices people have faced for a lack of individual rights. If some scientific evidence proved that those with darker skin were at a higher percentage of being carriers of the vaccine, would people try to impose vaccine mandates just on people with darker skin and say that they should give up their individual rights for the “greater good”?

2. On pages 195-197 of “Grief Counseling and Grief Therapy” by J. William Worden, the author discusses Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and the sudden loss for the family. I had vaguely heard about SIDS but something I never stopped to think about was how the parents feel guilt and blame. Since there is no exact definition for the reason behind the death, the parents feel as if it could have been their neglect in some area. Not only are you mourning your child, whom you cared for and expected to outlive you, you also have to live with the blame you feel from yourselves and possibly from others. Some parents are even incarcerated due to the sudden death of their child. I can only imagine the suffering the couple must go through in these cases.

3. Chapter 6 of “Journey Across the Life Span” by F.A. Davis, describes the prenatal period to age 1. What I found interesting was the topic about genetic counseling and how it is needed for parents to understand the risks of genetic hereditary disorders. I also found it interesting that this kind of counseling involves the entire family and not just the parents. As there are two genetic gene pools to consider from it makes sense why it is done this way.