

The Victim' s Paradox: Resolving Justice & Forgiveness

Kerry Decker • Saipan, 2011

raphahouse@pacbell.net

Gene & Rita's Story

The Victim's Paradox:
Resolving Justice and Forgiveness
Kerry Decker

© 2011, Kerry Decker. All rights reserved.

What Do You Think?

If you could give victims just one gift to benefit them for the rest of their lives would you give them **justice** or **the capacity to forgive**?

Six Facts About Forgiveness



The Victim's Paradox:
Resolving Justice and Forgiveness
Kerry Decker

© 2011, Kerry Decker. All rights reserved.



Forgiving DOES NOT mean...

Forgetting

Think About It

- Even God doesn't forget when He forgives
- After all, He's omniscient
- And He couldn't remain omniscient, if He forgot something

Forgive and Remember

- To be safe yourself
- To protect and serve others



#2

Forgiving DOES NOT mean...

**Your offenders
have changed**

Consider This

- Don't wait for them to admit wrongdoing
- Don't wait for them to apologize
- Don't leave them in control of when you will move on with your life

You Do Not Need

- Your offender' s permission before you can forgive
- Your offender' s cooperation in order to forgive

It's True



The best place to
keep a dangerous dog
is behind a high fence



Forgiving DOES NOT mean...

Reconciliation

Remember

- Anyone can be **sorry** for doing wrong
- Anyone can **apologize**
- Anyone can make **promises**
- But change is demonstrated by how people live over time

Be Wise

Trust only the trustworthy

Remember

Reconcile only when
people show that they
are **safe over time**



Forgiving DOES mean...

Letting go of bitterness

It's True

Bitterness is the poison
you swallow while
waiting for the other
person to die



Bitterness Hurts Us

- Bitterness is **understandable**
- Bitterness is **natural**
- Bitterness **produces no good**

Resolving Bitterness

- Justice **does not** free you from bitterness
- Only forgiveness can



Freedom and Bitterness

- You had no choice about being victimized
- You had no choice about feeling bitterness
- But you can choose how you're going to spend the rest of your life

Rape and Mayhem Survivor

- He took one of my yesterdays
- But I choose how many of my tomorrows to giveaway



#5

Forgiving DOES mean...

**Abuse was a part of your
life but not the most
important part**

A Question Worth Considering

What is the most
important truth
about you?



It's True

Forgiveness puts abuse in its place



Forgiving DOES mean...

**Allowing God to
redeem your pain**

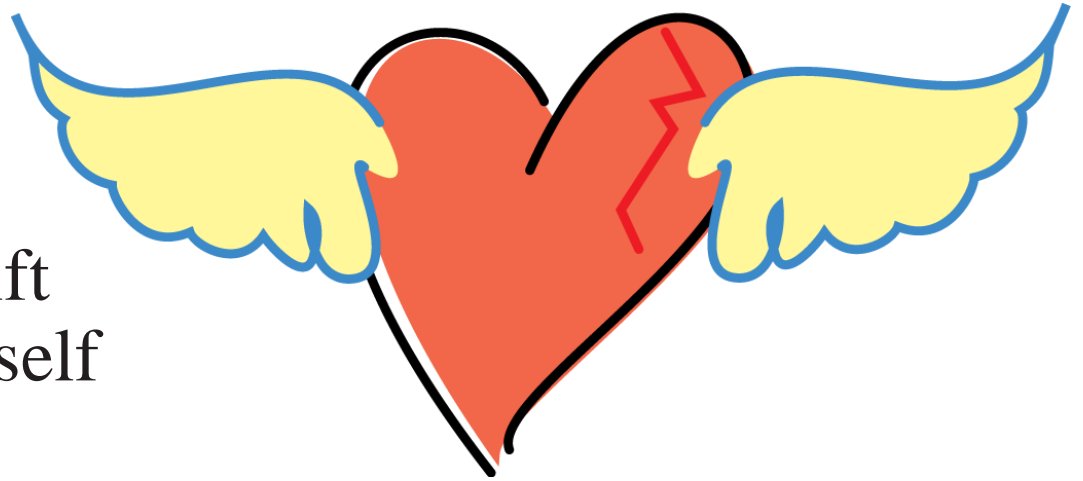
Pain and Loss Is Not the Final Chapter

Pain can be redeemed

The Pearl Pendant Necklace



The Truth About Forgiveness



- Forgiveness is a gift that you give yourself
- Forgiveness sets a wounded heart free