

7/24/2018

## WHY ARE WE HERE

I got a call from my daughter yesterday afternoon. She informed me that she would be coming to Nashville because her Mother, my ex-wife, had fallen and had hairline fractures in one of her wrists and one of her ankles. Any of you who have been through divorces know they are never fun--and there are many moments of anger, disagreement, stress, blaming and emotional scarring. Divorces can, and most of the time do, take long periods of time to heal and many times the hurt, frustration and disappointment never totally subsides.

I won't go into details but our divorce was particularly cantankerous in the beginning and both of us, with our attorneys, managed to stir up a lot of pent up anger. Both of us blamed each other for the failed marriage and the fact that we had two children didn't make things any easier. That was 22 years ago.

Since then, our kids have grown up and moved away. My daughter lives in Morerro, LA, a suburb of New Orleans, and my son lives in Rochester, NY. My daughter normally gets back to Nashville two or three times a year and my son generally comes back right after the new year for his yearly trip home.

Somehow, and I believe it is through the Grace of God, my ex and I have managed to put the divorce behind us. At first, even though our relationship was still filled with bitterness, we did it "for the kids". Through the years the blaming, hurt, anger and bitterness have faded and, because we get together "as a family" when the kids are here, our love and caring for each other has managed to overcome the

negatives in our relationships.

I still feel somewhat responsible for the reason my ex is in Nashville. It was me, with my dreams of being in the music business, who pulled her away from her home in Kansas. And it was me, who through my addiction to alcohol and drugs, managed to cause her love to grow cold. As I realized my part in the whole equation, I began to forgive myself and my ex wife for all that had happened between us. I also began to see how both of our loves for our children simply had to overcome any disagreements or anger we had toward each other.

I was compelled, after talking with my daughter, to call Linda and ask her if there was anything she needed. Up until that time our communication had been limited to texting about getting together when the kids are in town. It felt good to hear her voice and know that I was reaching out to her only because I cared about her well being. No ulterior motives--just a pure, God given love for another person.

I didn't mean for this article to be all about my divorce! Sorry! What I have realized through this whole event though is that, no matter how angry or resentful our relationships have been with other people, there comes a time when LOVE can, and will, overcome all obstacles if we only allow it to do so!

Please take some time today to forgive yourselves and others who may have caused you emotional pain and suffering in the past. That's why we are here--to love each other and help each other no matter how much negativity we may have had with each other in the past. The past is past! Every day is a new beginning and a brand new opportunity to do God's work through our loving relationships with others!

God Bless-- All my best-- Chip

