

On Recrimination

by David Eisenstein

I have kind of come to a peaceful decision about the Moores/Pattersons/Wallaces. They are "the recrimination people." They all do the best they can to criminalize one another and make one another look bad to one another. They focus not on what people do well and right, but on what they do badly and hurtfully (or assumed hurtfully). And Jamie is very much of that milieu. I think part of the reason last summer after my being away from Jamie 3-4 weeks that you were able to detect my sounding noticeably happier is that I was away from my prime recriminator. Someone who had made me feel bad about my being me. Life is too short to let people like in hold a prime spot in one's life.

You [meaning my sister Sue] don't recriminate me, generally. You accept me. And that makes all the difference in the world as to how I get along with you versus how I get along with Jamie.

It is a shame. The family as a whole I think would be much happier if they would find ways of supporting one another and being kind to one another, especially behind each other's backs, and also to each other's faces. More peaceful, more kind, more loving, less drama.

I think the master recriminator is Jim Patterson. He does it well and his children come by that talent naturally.

Anybody who doesn't play the ball game the way they think they should play it is ripe for the picking from the recrimination tree.

It is so sad.

And uselessly melodramatic.

And yet I may well be hypocritical here. I may be just as good at it as any of them. The pot calling the kettle black here. But hey, pot-calling-kettles-back is something people do well. Especially when it is something they practice a lot.

"Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:." – Luke 6:37, KJV.

My 2¢.

Help Us Accept Each Other

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

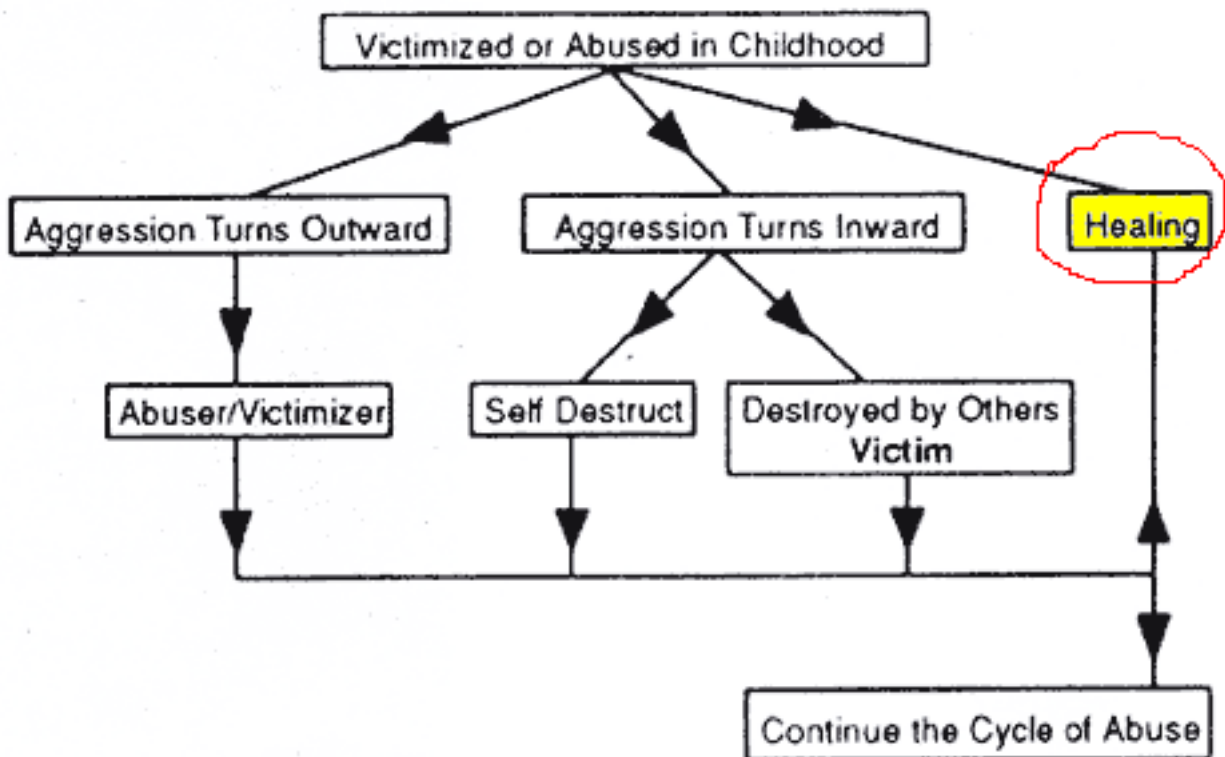
Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

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Written by Fred Kaan, 1974 (cf: Jn. 15:12)



ps: I may be the worst recriminator of all of us!