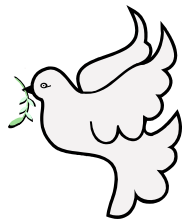


Answers from the Readers

How were you able to come to terms with and forgive your family for disowning you?

- Lots and lots of therapy. And getting a life. I still have anger come up now and then, but it doesn't linger. I view my loss of my JW relatives with Elisabeth Kubler-Ross' "Stages Of Grieving" which are: Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, Acceptance. I was in the denial phase for about a day, then the Anger phase for years. The Bargaining occurred when I tried to rekindle a relationship with my mother via letters. This last 2-3 years. I'm now in the Depression phase and quickly approaching Acceptance.
- Forgiveness is an individual thing, which perhaps depends on each one's experience as to how their family treats them. My mother and two "elder" brothers cut me off completely and would have nothing to do with me, or my children who were innocent. Being raised from infancy in "The Truth," I knew that they didn't hate me, just hated my lifestyle and the fact that I broke my vow to Jehovah. They are just treating me the way they have been programmed to. They are so strong in their faith and feel that they must follow all the rules to the letter in order to survive the Great Tribulation. What I have a hard time dealing with is how they can be so blind and not see like I did that the organization is really a false prophet fed through their religious magazines. I hold the society accountable for my family and other witnesses' treatment of me. Blame the organization, not the individual witness.
- I've forgiven my mother for disowning me because I realize that to not forgive her reinforces her religion's control over my life and will only adversely affect *me*. I refuse to give her, or the organization, any more power. Also, once I realized that my mother was suckered into this indoctrination by well-rehearsed, sightless followers when she was at the most vulnerable point in her life, I saw her as a victim, not a perpetrator. I do feel frustrated that she didn't have the common sense and clarity to see this organization for what it is. More than that, I feel incredibly sad for her because she has chosen to forfeit *this* life—giving up her own flesh and blood—for a future that will never come to pass.
- Brenda Lee



Discover inner peace...



And discover freedom