

CouplesInBloom.com – Self Victimization

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We can pervert God's patience to seem like God's permission... seeing no immediate consequence ⇒ Psalm 50:21-22. We can falsely comfort ourselves by distorting 1 John 5:16-17 ⇒ which says there is a sin that does not lead to death. We can deceive ourselves by taking sin lightly... as if we can get away with it by dangerously abusing God's grace with our arrogance. **Doing this incites tragedy that has no remedy!!!** ⇒ Proverbs 29:1.

There is no such thing as a victimless crime ⇒ James 1:14-15. The law is the power of sin ⇒ 1 Corinthians 15:56 and breaking the law always kills, steals or destroys something ⇒ John 10:10. We know God's heart is to bless, especially the broken ⇒ Isaiah 57:15. God also always honors His gift of our free will ⇒ Revelation 3:5; 22:19. With that said:

Two variables in **self victimization** are awareness and desire: 1) do I *realize* I am making myself a victim, and; 2) do I *want* to make myself a victim. Four combinations of outcomes can come from these two variables alone; and more variables exist. However, our focus here is **how self victimization destroys relationships**, especially marriages.

Self victimization is often (knowingly or unknowingly) used to control others to gain attention for oneself. This diseased way of life may be so deeply ingrained that the person (if aware of it) falsely believes that it is not sin. Besides *deceiving them self*, the power of this sin in this person also *tortures their spouse* by obligating them to somehow resolve this problem their self victimizing spouse fabricated. It is *torture* because it forces consequences on them they did not initiate. This is the sinful working of *manipulation*.

Example: someone (over)dramatizes a legitimate difficulty in their life to their spouse; not just once when having a bad day, but many times. One reason they repeat (nag?) it is because they do not get the response *they* want, *blind* to their sabotage of self and spouse.

Result: their selfishness fulfills the Psalm and the Proverb above: inciting **no remedy!** This means: 1) their problem remains unresolved; 2) they created yet another problem in their life and marriage, and; 3) their **relationship** with their spouse remains in bad shape.

Alternative action: instead of (over)dramatizing the legitimate difficulty in their life to their spouse, they: 1) find the right moment; 2) patiently detail the difficulty fully, and; 3) look to their spouse for *help* (*possibly including being corrected*), **not** someone to *blame*. Even if the spouse *has* guilt in the matter, humility is God's- / the best- way to address it.

Alternative result: resolution is now possible because the falsehood of victimization is removed. Accurate definition of the problem *allows* accurate resolution of the problem. Overstating issues is an evil form of communication... not at all "cute" ⇒ Matthew 5:37.

If we ever say, "**Why do I still have no remedy to this problem?!**" we need to examine our self for **self victimization**. *We* may be preventing the resolution. Check for: itching ears ⇒ 2 Timothy 4:3; dull mind ⇒ Matthew 13:15; distracted eyes ⇒ Matthew 14:37; unteachable spirit ⇒ Hebrews 5:8; here even Jesus Christ learned through human problems; do *we* have the *audacity* not to? Or to distrust God's ability to solve problems?

Self Victimization is worse than self-worship; it entraps others into the disease. Jesus Christ was victimized by our sin so we don't have to be; **so don't be.** ♥ Loren Falzone