

Friendship, Kindness, love, and Respect Beats Violence

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I can relate to kids and teenagers who have been bullied, abused and left in unfair situations before. When I started school in America, I wasn't what you'd call popular. I remember when I sat by a group of kids to eat lunch with, at school; the whole group would move and call me some ugly names. I remember being afraid to go home to find my dad abusing my mom over his alcoholic behavior. I remember locking myself in my room and just crying over everything until I had a migraine and fell asleep. I remember the time my mom, my brothers and I had to sleep over friends houses for months because we couldn't afford to get our own place. I consider myself very lucky to be the person I am today all because of God and this heaven sent friend who was always there for me. This special friend always stood up for me, gave me the best advice and loved me as if I was her sister. Some kids and teenagers didn't have this one special friend and felt that violence was the only way to solve their problem.

Bullying is common violence among teens today. It occurs more often than any other teenage violence. Bullies bully people for fun without knowing they're damaging their victim's life and their own. Barry Loukaitis 14, a typical teen going to high school, but he was being bullied every day. Loukaitis didn't really have a friend to stick up for him when he was bullied and his principle didn't really care. One day Loukaitis had enough of being bullied and went to school to kill his bullies. Now, some teenagers or kids would use violence upon themselves and commit suicide than murder.

One of my mom's customers had told me about her ex-husband and teenage daughter. Her daughter was sexually and domestically abused by her ex-husband from the age of 11-17. Her ex-husband had told her daughter if she told anyone about what was going on he would kill her and her mom. During that time the girl became depressed, went on drugs, and got in a lot of fights at school. When principles and counselors would ask her why the sudden change in behavior, she would just cry heavily. One day the girl decided to take away her misery by shooting her step father, but he didn't die.

Neighbors had heard the gun shot and busted in her house. While neighbors called the police she had threaten to commit suicide. When the police arrived at the scene the girl was forced to tell her story. Later her stepfather went to prison. Today the girl is still in rehab for drugs.

I was watching a TV show on the history channel about teenagers in gangs. One story had stayed with me and made me think. There were two young teenage boys, 14 who lived with their little sisters and mothers who couldn't work. The boys felt the need to provide for their families and protect them. They were too young to work and needed quick money for their families. One day they were introduced to gangsters in their area who promised them fast money. The boys were educated about the illegal ways of gangs but determined to provide for their families, they joined the gang. One day the boys were sent to rob a gas station at midnight. They weren't planning to shoot anyone during the mission but out of panic one of them did. When the police swarmed in to arrest the young gangsters they didn't see young boys trying to provide for their families. They saw two young criminals robbing a gas station for riches and selfish reasons.

Sometimes kids and teenagers go through so much that they respond to violence to fix their problems. These four teenagers were average normal people going through tough times. When it seemed like nobody was helping them through the strenuous times they decided to help themselves by committing crimes. I believe if those teens had a real friend, around their age, to talk to, give them beneficial advice, stick up for them and loved them, they wouldn't have committed such crimes. It's heartbreaking when I see kids and teens as young as me taking away their own precious lives, and killing because they're being bullied. It saddens me when teens revolve on drugs because their being abused. It angers me when young teens join gangs because they think it's the only choice left. This is why it's our obligation as teenagers to stick together and care for one another and others. We need to treat one another with respect, love, and kindness no matter what. We need to let each other know there are

solutions besides violence. We need to show one another that doing the right things during hard times will always come to a positive ending. Positive kids or teens will become positive adults and positive adults equal a positive future. A positive future is what we all really want for one another and violence affects all of our chances of having one. We all at one point need to come together and say :“no more bullying, no more suicides, no more gang violence, no more murder, no more drugs, no more depression and I refuse to be a victim of any type of abuse”. When we are determined to have a positive life and adult hood, we won't let either one of these violence get in our way.

For those who are bullying others or abusing others, I hope you all come to sense one day, knowing that you're killing your victim slowly in many ways and quit.