

## Dealing With Guilt

There is a well-used story line, about a man wanting to buy all the lots on a city block that will house his new architectural construction. In this story, there is always one person who holds out. The demolition crew stands ready, the construction team is eager to begin, but the project is delayed, due to one person who is not willing to let go of his property.

If you are a single mother today, know this: **God is in the construction business.** With loving hands, and great attention to detail, He designed and made us for Himself. But something went wrong; was it divorce? Having a child out of wedlock? If we are single parents today (barring from widowhood), along with balancing both the mother and father roles, we battle with guilt. Well, Jesus is the One who bought up all the lots in the city block of our lives to put up a brand new building.

So, we got saved, or got right with God, and started giving Him our old lives, our old habits, and old dreams. But there is one part we still hold onto. The demolition crew stands ready, the construction team is eager to begin, but the project is delayed, due to that one piece of property we insist on holding onto - guilt.

Smokers quit smoking, alcoholics dry out, drug addicts get cleaned up, cursors develop new language, and in time we forget their old sins. But, how can a single mother undo her divorce, or the birth of her child born out of wedlock? So, we tend to wallow in our guilt. Let it go.

We single mothers battle with a lot of outside hurdles; we do not need to battle inside with guilt; it will make us weak. I John 1:7 says, "*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*" Whether we want to believe it or not, that verse says ALL sin. We tend to want to pick and choose which sins God will forgive, and because

certain circumstances, or certain people keep reminding us of our past mistakes, we repeatedly fall into our self-pity, self-battering mode. We let reproach from outside fester in, and then it feeds the guilt inside. As a single mother, I have come to learn that the reproach is to stir me to "act", not "retract". Who better can discourage the next generation from following the path that led me to be raising a child alone? The reproach is to remind us of the urgency of our task. But, if we internalise it, we will magnify our inadequacies, get angry with God, and do little or nothing to influence (for right) the next generation.

**Let it go.** If you have already confessed your sin; you have lain it at Jesus' feet, don't let anyone or anything make you pick it up again. Just let it go.

**God is in the demolition business.** He wants to knock down the old walls of sin and guilt that hinder His relationship with us; the old walls of self-pity and pride that say you are worth less to God than the married parent. He wants to clear the land of the rubble, to haul away the debris that constantly trips us up.

**God is in the reconstruction business.** He has a plan drawn up for our lives, and if we never realise it, it is our fault. Let us give up that plot we tend to withhold from Him, and let the reconstruction begin (or continue). He loves us, and He will use us, if we will let Him remake us.

The demolition crew stands ready, the construction team is eager to begin. Single mom, what will you do with the property you are hanging onto?

*Article taken from **Dear Single Mothers**  
© JMariah, 2000  
LB Productions, Toronto*