

## A Few Good Decisions

*\* This is a true story. The names have been changed at the request and to protect the privacy of the individuals involved.*

They were young and impulsive. Consequences and delay of gratification were the last things on their minds. Patty and Steve were both underage - she just 15 and he just 17. It was a night of passion in the back seat of his car, and neither could imagine the journey on which those impulsive actions would take them.

Steve waited a week, after hearing from Patty that she was pregnant, to tell his parents. It was a sleepless week filled with remorse and self-deprecating guilt, but Steve knew he had to consult with his parents. They had always been there for him before. He knew that he was not in love with Patty and he did not wish to be married at 17. Steve did not think that Patty was in love with him either, and so many confusing and conflicting thoughts crossed his mind. Steve's talk with his parents was unimaginably difficult, but his parents, in their own German "take charge" way, stated emphatically that there would be no talk at all of abortion. Steve's mother, in her selfless manner, offered to raise the baby. At this point, the parents (both Steve's and Patty's) met and sought the counsel of a wise pastor. This pastor felt that raising Patty and Steve's baby alongside Steve would be unwise, so the parents opted to have the baby put up for adoption. In those days, the young pregnant mother had to drop out of high school and go away until after the baby was born.



**Lisa Adler**

Patty was trying to find her "baby" and the 30 year old

Steve and Patty did not speak to each other again. Steve later married and had a family of his own. Patty also married and had a family of her own. Decades passed. No one spoke about the life-changing events of that time. When the "baby" would have been thirty (30) years old, a call came to Steve's home. It was Patty's brother. He just wanted Steve to know that

"baby" was trying to find his biological parents. Steve's first wife of 25 years had died of cancer, and Steve was newly engaged to his second wife, Audrey. Steve, with the help of Audrey, decided that a meeting with his unknown child, named Mark, would hopefully be a welcome thing.



**Marti Starkey**

At first, a letter came, an unbelievably open and honest letter, with a spirit of self-emptying forgiveness from Mark to Steve. When Audrey read the letter, she told Steve to look at the handwriting ---it was exactly like Steve's handwriting. After the first meeting passed, and many more occurred, it became apparent that Steve and Mark shared more than a genetic pool that caused identical handwriting, they also shared a riotous sense of humor, a steadfast spirit and a bountiful love of family. A friendship developed between Steve and Mark that could only happen between father and son or possibly between best friends.

Despite the fact that thirty years passed when Steve rarely, if ever, even spoke about those high school events, the happy story goes on from there of Steve and Audrey, and their combined family, sharing vacations and holidays with Mark, his wife and three children. Not all stories of this kind end quite so happily, but it is true that in God's good grace, a few good decisions resulted in much joy.

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