



## Pure Forgiveness

Some say there is no greater pain than a parent losing a child. So imagine watching for weeks as your disabled child is deliberately killed by denying her water — which is plentiful, but you are forbidden to put even a drop on her lips.

March 31st marks the anniversary of Terry Schindler Schiavo's excruciating death by dehydration. Despite the vote of every senator, passionate pleas by congressmen and the president flying halfway across the country to sign a law to help Terry, judges ordered that this innocent woman be killed.

Throughout it all, as the world watched, Terry's family — who deserved to be angry at this cruelty and injustice — exhibited profound faith. Within an hour after Terry's heart stopped beating, in an extraordinary display of Christ-like humility, her brother Bobby faced the TV cameras and spoke to all who had clamored for her death. It would have been astounding if he had forgiven them, but he went beyond that. He asked forgiveness if he or his family had caused offense to anyone.

Jesus taught us to pray "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." (Matthew 6:12)

Few of us have faced the pain and injustice that Terry's family faced. But we can be tempted to nurse grudges as we confront unrighteousness.

The Schindlers lived out the key trait for a pure heart. Forgiveness freed them from the stranglehold of bitterness and despair. It gave them strength to continue on to help others. This may be the greatest legacy of Terry's ordeal.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendy Wright".

Wendy Wright  
President

## HOW TO REACH US

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