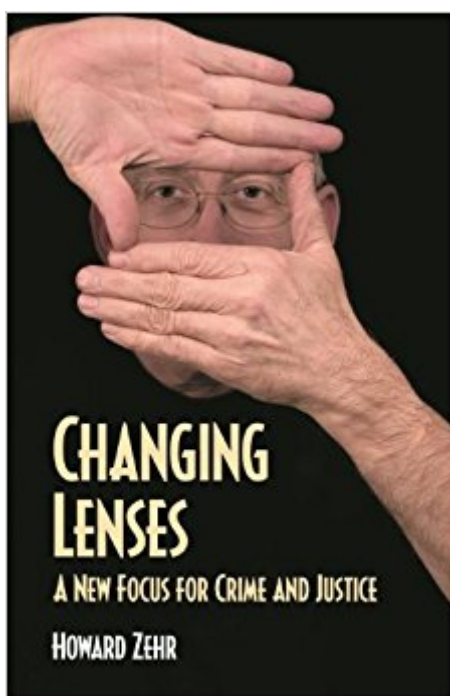


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# Changing Lenses: A New Focus For Crime And Justice (Christian Peace Shelf)



## Synopsis

Crime victims have many needs, most of which our criminal justice system ignores. In fact, the justice system often increases the injury. Offenders are less ignored by this system, but their real needs—•for accountability, for closure, for healing—•are also left unaddressed. Such failures are not accidental, but are inherent in the very definitions and assumptions which govern our thinking about crime and justice. Howard Zehr proposes a restorative model which is more consistent with experience, with the past, and with the biblical tradition. Based on the needs of victims and offenders, he takes into account recent studies and biblical principles. This is the third edition of *Changing Lenses*, with a new Afterword by the author.

## Book Information

Series: Christian Peace Shelf

Paperback: 292 pages

Publisher: Herald Press; 3 edition (January 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0836135121

ISBN-13: 978-0836135121

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 5.5 x 0.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #69,191 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #147 in [Books > Textbooks > Law > Criminal Law](#) #164 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Social Issues](#) #308 in [Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Criminology](#)

## Customer Reviews

Howard Zehr demonstrates convincingly that biblical mercy is not an absurd idea but can be practically applied in our criminal justice system.... This book is a must for anyone working in the field of criminal justice, but it speaks to all of us who care about proclaiming God's mercy amidst the brokenness of our society. --The Other Side  
This book calls for a rethinking of crime and justice and offers a bold new direction. Readers should be aware, however, that it isn't merely a handy little volume with simplistic assessments and catchy slogans. The author challenges the definitions and assumptions that color our thinking and shape public policy on crime and justice. --CBA Marketplace  
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assessments and catchy slogans. The author challenges the definitions and assumptions that color our thinking and shape public policy on crime and justice. --CBA Marketplace

Howard Zehr of Harrisonburg, Virginia, is a writer and consultant on criminal Justice issues. He is co-director of Conflict Transformation Program and a professor of restorative justice at Eastern Mennonite University.

This is a must read for anyone interested in the criminal justice system, and how it can better serve true justice by moving from the current retributive model to a restorative one. I think so highly of this work that I keep extra copies on hand to give to others.

An easy read for understanding restorative justice.

Great price and quality! Really made me look at things differently.

Changing Lenses is a profound, insightful read that is a must for those whose concern and passion is in social justice. This book cannot be ignored in the field and I trust will help give guidance for the kind of creative change that needs to be considered in our present justice system.

Purchased for someone else however I have read it and give it an A+ rating.

Restorative justice is a different way of seeing, and changing lenses is a perfect way to understand a new/old way to deal with the harmed and those who have harmed. Thank you!

This book was handed to me by the religious leader of my church after a discussion regarding my son's legal problems. In this book Zehr takes issue with the current system, which many claim is based on the Old Testament of the Bible. He views the criminal justice system as one which has been built on retributive justice. This system is built on retribution, the "eye for an eye" viewpoint. Zehr raises several substantial questions: Is the retribution system working as a deterrent to crime? Is the retribution system truly in line with the ideas of the Bible -- both Old and New Testaments? Does the retribution system really help the victim? Does "punishment" really rehabilitate the offender? Moving forward Zehr then talks about a restorative system of justice. This system of justice is more akin to our civil courts than our criminal courts. Rather than being a crime against the

state, the action of the offender is regarded as a crime against a person. Both victim and offender see each other. If done well, both victim and offender come to know each other as people, not just faceless stereotypes. This step alone can make a huge difference. For the victim, it's a chance to express his or her sense of violation. For the offender, it's a chance to understand that he or she hurt a person, not just the owner of a house that he or she ripped off. Zehr realizes that he is wrestling with a utopian ideal. Restorative justice is far easier for us to accord to those who have done crimes such as burglary (unless you have been a victim of one and understand how violating the event can be). But what about the more brutal crimes of rape, child molestation or murder? Zehr believes the system needs substantial revamping in these ways as well, but acknowledges it is a much more difficult solution. Food for thought.

This book is a true help for everyone who would like to get a new perspective on crime and justice. Howard Zehr is a leading scholar on the issue of Restorative Justice and his insight has caused me to think differently about many issues related to criminal justice. How desperately our society needs a change of the set of lenses we use...

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