

Domestic Abuse

If you are suffering from or you are committing acts of domestic violence or sexual abuse, please know this – God loves you. God’s plan for every relationship in your family is centered on service, while domestic violence is about power and control. Domestic violence or abuse can occur both physical (harm to body or neglect of needs) and non-physical ways (verbal, emotional or financial manipulation).

Domestic violence is about power and control and can be viewed as a cycle. *Tension builds -> an incident occurs -> the abuser apologizes and attempts to make it up (makes promises or gives gifts) -> period of calm -> tension builds again -> another incident.* The stages of this cycle may take only minutes or may develop over years. Without intervention, the periods of “making up” and “calm” often disappear.

Christians are called to understand that actions of domestic violence are in direct conflict with God’s plan for your relationships. For example:

MARRIAGE:

[First Corinthians 7:4](#) says, “The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife.” The two belong to one another and are called to love one another as Christ loved us. Marriage is an image of Jesus Christ and the Church and, thus, domestic violence is a far cry from the character and image of Jesus.

CHILDREN:

[Psalm 127:3](#) says, “Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him.” God entrusts parents with children, and those parents are to lovingly care for them and train them up. [Ephesians 6:4](#) says, “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord” (see also [Colossians 3:21](#)). Children are to obey their parents ([Ephesians 6:1–3](#)), and discipline is important. But discipline is distinctly opposed to violence and abuse.

If you are in a domestic violence situation, please do everything possible get out safely. If you are a victim, please contact the police or visit with us here at the church for some counsel. If you are a perpetrator, separate yourself from the person whom you are harming please also feel free to contact us here at the church (912-871-5849) and we will help you find the resources you need. One major immediate resource at your disposal in the United States is the [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#). Their number is 1-800-799-7233.