

Domestic Violence

- The theme of forgiveness (Acts 5:31; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14). If we confess our sins, Christ is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins.
- God's grace as the basis of hope (John 1:16-17; Romans 5:20; Romans 3:24). What Satan intends for evil, God can bring about for good in all our lives. That is our hope.

¹Cited in John Kie Vining, *When Home is Where the Hurt Is* (Cleveland, TN: Pathway Press 1997), 83-85.

Condensed and adapted from *Silent Suffering, Silent Shame*, Chapter 4 (Manuscript).

Women's Ministries Abuse Helpline

1-800-895-9985 (Toll-free)

Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

(Monday - Friday)

During all other hours, call the National Domestic
Violence Hotline at 1-800-799 SAFE (7233)



Remember, you may receive help by calling your local police or 911

Department of Women's Ministries
P.O. Box 2430
Cleveland, TN 37320-2430
Phone: 423-478-7170
Fax: 423-478-7891
E-mail: cogwwam@aol.com
Website: www.womensministries.cc

Practical Ways a Local Church Can Minister

Domestic Violence

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The church must take responsibility and the opportunity for ministering to these families; physically, materially, emotionally, financially, and spiritually.

1. We must learn how to discuss and debate our differences peacefully. These messages must be proclaimed:

“The violent devise injustice” (Psalm 58:2).

“The violent bear false witness” (Psalm 27:12; 140:11; Proverbs 10:6, 11; Hosea 12:1).

“The violent are associated with Satan” (Ezekiel 28:16).

“Do not envy a violent man or choose any of his ways” (Proverbs 3:31).

“In his arrogance, the wicked man hunts down the weak . . . He lies in wait near the villages; from ambush he murders the innocent, watching in secret for his victims. He lies in wait like a lion in cover, he lies in wait to catch the helpless, he catches the helpless and drags them off in his net” (Psalm 10:2, 8 and 9).

2. The church can:

- Locate the nearest battered women’s shelter by calling the National Domestic Abuse Hotline at 800-799-7233. Also consult the local yellow pages under the headings of “Human Services” or “Social Services.”
- Provide a crisis hotline to take domestic violence calls or volunteer to answer phones at the local battered women’s shelter.
- Provide shelter (in consultation with local professional, experienced persons in dealing with these issues, i.e. the local battered women’s shelter) and the basic survival needs such as items of clothing, personal hygiene items, food and finances for victims and their children who must escape with only the clothes on their backs.

- Offer group and counseling support in the form of Bible studies, women’s groups or grief support groups.
3. From the pulpit, pastors and ministers offer messages that confront, give hope, and heal. They preach messages that condemn the sins of oppression and abuse, educate and enlighten our people. Several pastoral themes that can offer hope and correction adapted from Herchel Sheets’ *Spouse Abuse and Preaching: A Minister’s Response* include:¹
 - The nature and character of God (1 Corinthians 1:9; 1 John 4:8, 16; Psalm 22:3; Psalm 103:3). God is love, holy, faithful, trustworthy, just, pure, compassionate, forgiving, and the judge of what is good and right.
 - The value and worth of persons (Psalm 22:9; Isaiah 44:2; Genesis 1:27). God created each human being with value and worth to be treated with respect and love.
 - The nature of the marriage covenant (1 Corinthians 6:16). The covenant marriage is not to be confused with a contractual marriage. Covenant relationship defines the way people are to relate to one another in order to consummate and maintain the union.
 - The relationship between husbands and wives (Ephesians 5:21; Genesis 2:24). For Christians, this issue becomes what is pleasing and right before God.
 - The inseparability of faith and conduct or behavior (Romans 8:1; Galatians 5:22). The “walk must match the talk” best illustrates this concept.
 - The identity of God as Savior (1 Timothy 4:10; Psalm 106:21). Christ is redemption for sin, all of our behavior and actions are accountable before God.