

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment.
1 John 14:18

“WHY IS THERE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?”

“WHY DOES GOD ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN TO ME?”

“WHERE IS GOD WHEN I’M BEING ABUSED?”

“DOESN’T GOD LOVE ME?”

“WHAT SHOULD I DO IF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS HAPPENING TO ME?”

As Ecclesiastics 1:9 says, “That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun.” So domestic violence is not a new phenomenon to either God or people.

However, God’s people are dangerously becoming more like the people of the world. As God’s people take on the characteristics of the world, the more the problems of this world invade the church and those who know Christ.

- ✓ In August 2007, Juanita Bynum was allegedly choked, pushed, kicked and stomped by her husband, Bishop Thomas Weeks. He eventually pleaded guilty to the charges. They are now divorced.
- ✓ Most recently, singer Chris Brown, who started singing as a child with his church choir, was arrested for allegedly beating his girlfriend, singer Rihanna. According to his Wikipedia page, Brown witnessed domestic violence between his mother and her boyfriend until he was 17. According to the police report, Rihanna told police the two had an escalating abusive relationship. Rihanna suffered bruises to her face, swollen eyes, a bloody nose and bites to her fingers and arm.

Domestic violence:

1. Acts of violence or abuse against a person living in one’s household, esp. a member of one’s immediate family.
 2. Violence toward or physical abuse of one’s spouse or domestic partner
- ✓ Approximately 1.3 million women and 835,000 men are physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually in the United States.
 - ✓ Domestic violence facts in California says **1 in every 4 women** will experience domestic violence over her lifetime.
 - ✓ The majority (73%) of family violence victims are female. Females were 84% of spousal abuse victims and **86% of abuse victims at the hands of a boyfriend.**
 - ✓ **Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.**

WHY IS THERE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

- In today's society, more and more homes have abandoned God and the basic family structure He established. Colossians 3:18-21
- Couples are increasingly living together before marriage – even in the church. 1 Corinthians 6:13
- **Parents are making church and God optional for children. Romans 1:28-32**
- Gender roles are being reversed – especially in this economy. Ephesians 5:22-29 (Submission, however, is not a call to be a rug. The submission that God calls for women to display to their husbands is the same submission the church is called to display to Christ, voluntarily recognizing the authority of another.)

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN TO ME?

God has given people free will. Free will is actually a dangerous thing, and people don't always make the best choices. Proverbs 3:31 What choices have you made?

However, it is important to remember that God has a special purpose for each one of his people. Romans 8:28 What is the purpose God has for you in this trial?

In the midst of hardship, God's people often forget to ask, "God, do you love me?" If God's people were to truly seek the answer to that question, they would see how much God truly loves them and cares for them and values them. 1 John 4:10, Psalm 139:14-16

In the middle of a trial between two people, one may accuse the other of being less important in God's eyes. But that is not so.

1 Corinthians 11:7 – For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man.

11:11-12 – Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God.

HOW DO WE RECOGNIZE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

- The tongue – is your loved one continually criticizing you and tearing you down? Does s/he threaten you or your loved ones? Proverbs 16:27
- Control – are you always concerned about offending or angering a loved one? Proverbs 10:12 (Remember, the only person who can save a sinner is Jesus. Us regular people have no such power, other than the ability to bring a person to Jesus.)
- Shame – are you trying to keep the church out of your business? Are you trying to cover up for your loved one? Proverbs 17:9

“I’LL BE BLESSED IN MY SUFFERING” – 1 Peter 3:17-18

“I CAN CHANGE HIM. IT WILL CHANGE.” – Romans 12:1-2

WHY IS THERE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

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WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Malachi 2:14-15 – The priests of Malachi’s time had become apathetic and neglectful with their offerings, which meant they had become apathetic and neglectful with God. That attitude also affected their relationships with people, including their wives and it became common practice to divorce their wives and marry new, pagan wives. It grieved the Lord that the priests would treat Him and their wives He placed with them with such disdain.

Obadiah 10 – God cares for all people and it is against His will that people commit violence against one another.

Colossians 3:18-19 – The Lord directs wives to submit to their husbands **as is fitting in the Lord**. To submit, however, is to “arrange oneself under another” in voluntary submission, not unthinking obedience. The Lord gives us free will because He values each of his children. In addition, husbands are directed to love their wives and not be bitter to them. The Greek word used here is pikraino – which means to turn sour, make bitter. Wives, watch and pray lest your husbands be made bitter. Husbands, watch and pray that you do not turn sour.

Psalm 11:5 – When the Lord created Adam and Eve, He created a paradise in which they could live in peace and that was His purpose for them. Then the serpent the devil disrupted that peace and caused both Adam and Eve to sin. In the Greek, the violence spoken of in Psalm is translated as kakopoios. Kako, the first part of kakopoios, means:

evil, wicked, wrong, bad, a perversion of what pertains to goodness; as a noun, an evil thing can refer to any crime, harm, or moral crime.

With Adam and Eve’s first sin against God, they came to know evil. (Genesis 3:22) So even though God had created man to not know evil or violence, man still stumbled into it.

Ephesians 4:26-32 – Paul gives the Gentiles instructions on how to live, specifically mentioning wrath or anger, working and giving, what is spoken and forgiveness. These are instructions on how to be with other people, not just family, wives or husbands.

ARE THERE ANY EXAMPLES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR ABUSE IN THE BIBLE?

King Saul and David (who became his son-in-law) – 1 Samuel 16 – 26

What happened?

- ✓ 18:8-9 – Saul was jealous of David and wanted to control him
- ✓ 18:12-14 – Saul feared David's accomplishments and the love the people and God had for him
- ✓ 20:33 – Saul lashes out at his own son, Jonathan, for defending David
- ✓ 23:14, 18 – David, even being strong and winning victories in war, ran and hid in the wilderness and Saul searched for him because it was the Lord's will
- ✓ 24:4-7 – David has an opportunity to kill Saul but does not

HOW DOES THE BIBLE SUGGEST WE DEAL WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

1. Hear the problem, do not be too quick to offer solutions. James 1:19-20
2. Expose the sin. John 3:20
3. If abuse and violence continues, recommend separation. 2 Corinthians 16-18
4. And in any situation be a child of God, a follower of Christ. Romans 12:9-21