

BCC Policy: Domestic Violence

Approved October 2007

Domestic Violence...

Defined: is any coercive behavior used by a spouse to control his or her spouse.

Described: Types of Domestic Violence & Abuse... (at least three types)

1. Verbal: demoralizing, humiliating & disrespecting words & threatening non-verbal communication.
2. Sexual: husbands raping their wives—power rape, sex not to express love but anger and control.
3. Physical: physical harm or any angry touching of a spouse.

Unveiled: Domestic Violence and Abuse in America: (Refuge by Donald Stewart, pp. 22-23)

1. Every 12 seconds an act of domestic violence occurs.
2. Four million women report being beaten by their husbands each year—how many not reported???
3. Men commit 95% of all domestic violence assaults.
4. Abusive men generally maintain a public image as friendly, caring people—devoted family men.
5. 85% of batterers watched and or experienced domestic violence growing up by their father.

Not Condoned: Violence against women in the Bible is NOT condoned...

In contrast, Scripture commands husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church – Ephesians 5.

God's Heart: What does God say to women who have been abused or have abusive husbands?

1. I know and I care and I deeply love you...I am sad this has happened to you. **Psalm 23**
2. I am able to heal you, to bring all the pieces together and make you whole in Me...

Church's Response: What will we say to women who experience Domestic Violence & Abuse?

1. Domestic abuse is always wrong and should be reported to the elders.
2. When domestic abuse is reported to the elders, the elders will:
 - 1) In cases of sexual or physical abuse, ask the abused woman to call the police.
 - 2) Personally meet with the abuser to let him know that...
 1. his actions are wrong, unacceptable, and will not be tolerated.
 2. if serving at BCC, he will no longer serve in any BCC ministry until progress is made.
 3. the abuser will not be welcome to attend BCC, so that his spouse and family can stay.
 - 3) Determine whether the abuser will submit to the elders' authority & council; if NO, the abuser will be church disciplined; if YES, they will establish a counseling plan for the abuser.
 - 4) Let the abuser know that to restore his marriage will require his following the elders reconciling plan that involves professional counseling (and psychological testing and treatment if necessary), small group involvement, and mentoring with an older mature Christian.

God has called each husband to be the head of his family, not to abuse his family. He is to always unconditionally love his wife, even as Christ loved and died for the church. God called men to be thermostats – temperature setters. They are to be men of love, not anger or hostility.

Ephesians 5:25-27 *“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”*