

## Domestic Violence

Breaks God's laws & the laws of the State.

Its various forms are:

**Physical**

**Emotional**

**Psychological**

**Sexual**

**Financial**

**Spiritual**

It is NOT OK to abuse another person in any of these ways.

God insists that we accept responsibility for our own behaviours.

*"The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked and the soul hates him who loves violence."*

Ps 11v5

### Some Facts about Domestic Violence:

- ◆ It is the most common form of assault in Australia.
- ◆ 1 in 14 relationships are affected by domestic violence in Australia.
- ◆ Women are usually the victims of domestic violence – physically, sexually, emotionally and financially.

- ◆ Only rarely are men physically assaulted by women.
- ◆ Domestic violence occurs in all age groups and income levels; nationalities; races and religious organizations.
- ◆ Children are the innocent victims of domestic violence. They live in fear – in a world out of control.

### **There are many myths about what causes violence.**

A few are:

- ◆ Men are provoked by women.
- ◆ If she did not say/do this or that, I would not have to do it.
- ◆ Women should have to "submit" – which means be controlled.
- ◆ I can't help it. I just snap.
- ◆ If I do everything he wants, it will be OK.
- ◆ It's my fault. He can't help it.

AND MANY MORE ...

### **Domestic Violence is:**

Intimidation; Pushing; Power & Control; Harassment: Name Calling; Shoving; Put Downs; Blaming; Physical, Emotional, Economic Abuse; Coercion; Threats; etc.

Women often hide this and keep the secret; they don't tell anyone; hide their bruises and pain; make excuses; live in constant fear. If the secret is disclosed, women can suffer increased violence and threats. Often they are not believed and they are made to feel more guilty; i.e. they are revictimized.

Ephesians 5 v 22 is often quoted as a scriptural reason for a wife accepting domestic violence.

*"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord".*

### **There are some points to note:**

1. In v 21 Paul says that we must submit to one another in the fear of God. Could this possibly include any kind of intimidating behaviour?
2. Husbands are instructed to love their wives as they love their bodies – which they "nourish & cherish". (v 29–30)
3. v 33 A wife's submission to her husband is embedded in respect (not fear). She chooses to be submissive – it is not imposed upon her. We choose to submit to Christ. That relationship has nothing to do with control.



## Let us be clear:

The Bible *never* condoned domestic violence. The relationship between a man and a woman is NOT about control. It is about roles lived out in love and respect.

Sadly, this is not always true. Boundaries of personal safety are crossed. Children live in fear. This breaks God's laws and the laws of the land.

In any case of domestic violence, report it to the Ecclesia who needs to investigate and discipline. If the abuser fails to respect the advice of the Ecclesia, domestic violence must be reported to the authorities.

For the same reasons we report, for example:

- ◆ House break in
- ◆ Car theft

The abuser can then receive help and accept responsibility for their behaviour.

## Victims can live without fear.

2 Timothy 1v7: *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of a sound mind".*



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