

WHY DOESN'T SHE JUST LEAVE?

Working with Victims of Domestic Violence and
their Abusers

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LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- ✘ To understand why victims stay in abusive relationships
- ✘ Understanding the dynamics of abuse/ warning signs and profiles
- ✘ Goals of offenders and why men kill
- ✘ Blaming the victim Vs. Offender's responsibility

“Why do they stay?”

**SLAVES
TO SELL!**

ON SATURDAY, 15TH OF SEPT'R NEXT,
I will sell at the Court House door, in the town of Jackson, Cape Girardeau county, Mo., on a credit of twelve months, with interest from date, all the Slaves belonging to the estate of John Randol, deceased. Said Slaves consist of

**A NEGRO MAN,
Negro Woman & Child,
AND TWO FEMALE CHILDREN.**



RUSSIAN MAIL ORDER BRIDES

LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY...WE CAN GUARANTEE IT WILL BE A FEMALE, HUMAN AND FROM RUSSIA.

OTHER THAN THAT...SUBJECT MAY NOT MATCH PHOTO

DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE

✘ Attempting to gain **POWER** and **CONTROL** over another with any or all of the following:

- + *Physical abuse/Isolation*
- + *Emotional and psychological abuse*
- + *Sexual abuse*
- + *Economic abuse*
- + *Spiritual abuse*

WHY DO VICTIMS STAY?

- ✘ It can be difficult to understand WHY victims may stay with an abuser, but they stay because of
 - + Lack of economic resources or job skills
 - + Fear for their children
 - + Love for the abuser (but NOT the abuse)
 - + Fear of a failed marriage, family pressures
 - + Religious values
- ✘ The No. 1 reason victims stay in or go back to the abusive relationship? **Fear of the abuser.**

CULTURAL RECOGNITION

- ✘ Be **AWARE** – Asking for help may be even more difficult for victims for whom
 - + English is a second language, making it difficult to even describe the abuse that takes place.
 - + Residence in the U.S. is undocumented.
 - + Experiences with the police in their native country have not been helpful.
 - + There is no family around to support or care for them.

WARNING SIGNS (ONLY A HANDFULL)

✘ ABUSERS MAY

- + Be jealous.
- + Harm pets.
- + Destroy property.
- + Violate protective orders.
- + Make all the decisions.
- + Blame the victims.
- + Have a history of violent acts and abuse.

✘ VICTIMS MAY

- + Be statistically female.
- + Be isolated from family, friends, schools, and faith community.
- + Tend to minimize the situation.

ABUSER PROFILE

- ✘ Abuse is about **POWER** and **CONTROL**. The abuser is in control of the violence. Abusers
 - + Choose violence because it works for them. They choose when, where, and how they abuse.
 - + Are predominantly male.
 - + Lack self-esteem and feel out of control.
 - + Often seem like a pillar of the community who would never abuse family.

GOALS OF OFFENDERS...

...are to exert unlawful use of force against a person or property to intimidate or coerce by:

- **Instilling intense fear**
- **Creating a feeling of helplessness**
- **Creating a state of surrender**
- **Indoctrinating a loss of control**
- **Producing a threat of annihilation**

CHILDREN AND DV

- ✘ Those who witness abuse are more likely to
 - + Exhibit behavioral and physical health problems, including depression, anxiety, and violence toward peers
 - + Attempt suicide
 - + Abuse drugs and alcohol
 - + Run away from home
 - + Engage in teenage prostitution
 - + Commit sexual assault crimes

CHILDREN AS VICTIMS

- ✘ Children are abused when they witness DV at home.
 - + Recognize the problem and report it
 - + Develop policies to avoid circumstances within the faith community that might favor abuse
 - + Clarify scriptures regarding child abuse for the faith community

Continued responsibility on victims

What causes abuse?

Who's responsible?

TOLERANCE OF ABUSE

The writing on the walls

WHY DOES HE KILL?

murder is the climax of a history of violence that preceded it.

murder is not an unintended result of violence that went too far—most of these murders are well-planned.

The writing on the wall . . .

- ✘ The man's life lacks other sources of meaning and reasons for living;
- ✘ The man's personal behavior is rigid and uncompromising
- ✘ The man's traditional perception of masculinity, dictates that the male has full power, honor, and control, runs counter to his dependency upon his wife, making that reliance appear evidence of his weakness and humiliation, and an affront to masculine honor.

The writing on the wall . . . *continued*

- ✘ The man perceives the woman to be his whole world so that he feels that any separation from her entails a loss of his own identity;
- ✘ The man's prevailing beliefs about love appear to justify the sacrifice of his wife on the one hand and of persistence on the other. In this case, the ideology behind love provides the legitimacy for terrible crimes.

The writing on the wall . . . *continued*

- ✘ Delusion that his life should be perfect the way he perceives it to be.
- ✘ When all the above conditions pertain, the risk of murder significantly increases. The specific event that ignites the explosive barrel often revolves around the woman threatening to or actually separating from her partner.

EXAMPLES:

- ✘ Scott Peterson
- ✘ Mark Hacking
- ✘ Robert Blake
- ✘ O.J. Simpson
- ✘ Oscar Pistorius



STOPPING THE VIOLENCE

What can we do?

Intervention . . . what can you do?

✘ It's hard to determine a positive way to intervene in an abusive relationship.

Here are some suggestions:

- + If the situation warrants it, call 911.
- + Help victims with safety planning, lethality reviews, get to a shelter, and counseling, and offer her support. (the one thing they need more.)

Don't put your head in the sand by ignoring the violence. It won't go away unless we are all proactive.

Educate yourself and others about abuse and the warning signs.

Denounce the Abuse

Believe the victims

INTERVENTION

Tapping community resources . . . Victim advocates

✘ Victim advocates assist with the immediate needs of domestic violence victims:

- + Helping them through the judicial system.
 - + Providing emotional support.
 - + Providing knowledge about the court process.
 - + Updating the victim with information on arraignments and pre-trial and trial hearings.
- ✘ *Allow the victim advocate to do his or her job!*

- **Be willing to take advice from the pros about safety**
- **Educate yourself**
- **Follow through with positive actions (re-educate your brain)**
- **Take baby steps . . . one step at a time**
- **Keep reminding yourself that healing may take a lifetime and happiness is in the future**
- **And you do deserve it.**

FOR VICTIMS

IN CLOSING

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.