

Deep End
Abuse Week #3: The Church

Weekly Summary: *Statistically, whether we know it or not, all of us know and love someone who has been abused. In addition, all of us know and love someone who has been abusive. So, how can we be a blessing to both? How can we comfort and confront and bring healing to our circle of influence? This message explores answers to those urgent questions.*

Abuse: A **pattern of behavior** that uses **fear** and **force** to maintain power and control.

Isaiah 1:17a - Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.

Defend the abused with **grace** & **truth**.

Micah 6:8 - And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Isaiah 1:17a - Learn to do right; seek justice. **Defend the oppressed.** [a]

- NIV Footnote [a] = **Correct the oppressor**

Correct the abuser with **truth** & **grace**.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Proverbs 15:5,10,31-32 - A fool spurns a parent's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence...Stern discipline awaits anyone who leaves the path; the one who hates correction will die...Whoever heeds life-giving correction will be at home among the wise. Those who disregard discipline despise themselves, but the one who heeds correction gains understanding.

Luke 15:10 - In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Romans 12 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. 9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

"If it makes just one parent stop and realize the long term consequences and maybe change their ways you will have accomplished a service greater than you will ever understand."

"I would go through that again if it helped one person get help that needed it."

Points To Ponder

- 1) Have you ever tried to help someone who has been abused? If so, what did you do that worked? Having heard this message, is there anything you wish you would have done differently?
- 2) Have you ever tried to help someone who has been abusive? If so, what did you do that worked? Having heard this message, is there anything you wish you would have done differently?
- 3) Meditate on Isaiah 1:17-20. Find 2-3 other truths in this section that help prepare you to faithfully help the people that God will place in your path in the days to come.

Homework: Romans 7:13-25

922 MINISTRIES

Abuse—Resource List

I. Local Help

- A. **Your Pastors**—While your pastors are not trained/licensed counselors and should not replace a professional therapist, they are equipped to help you deal with the effects of sin on your soul, including those sins that have been committed against you. Their confidential, Christ-centered guidance can be one vital piece of your recovery and healing.
- B. **Harbor House** (www.harborhousewi.org)—Harbor House, which is less than one mile from The CORE, exists to end domestic abuse in our community. Their many resources include support groups for men and women, survivors of abuse and abusers themselves. Call their 24-hour crisis helpline at 920-832-1666.
- C. **Christian Family Solutions** (www.christianfamilysolutions.org)—CFS is a professional, Christian counseling organizations that exists to help and heal people in need. Dr. Brandon Hayes, their clinical director, told one of our pastors, “We have many counselors on staff who are trained to help individuals who have been abused. We would love to partner with you in any way we can to help the Kingdom.”

II. Websites

- A. **G.R.A.C.E.** (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment; www.netgrace.org)—GRACE helps Christian ministries recognize, prevent, and respond to abuse in its various forms. Pastor Mike found this website to be a rich resource of videos and articles for anyone looking for biblical answers on sexual, emotional, verbal, and/or physical abuse.
- B. **Freedom for the Captives** (www.freedomforcaptives.com)—This ministry was created to help protect children from abuse in addition to empowering abuse survivors. Filled with scripture and free resources, Freedom for the Captives is a wonderful place for the members of our congregation to learn about how to make 922 a safe place for every child to worship Jesus.

III. Books

- A. **Rid of My Disgrace** by Justin and Lindsay Holcomb—This was the first book that Pastor Mike ever read on the topic of abuse and, nearly a decade later, continues to be one of his favorites. This work focuses on sexual abuse and guides the reader to the cleansing, purifying, and restoring work of Jesus.
- B. **The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma** by Bessel van der Kolk—This book, recommended by Dr. Brandon Hayes, explores the connection between various types of trauma and the way our brains ability to trust, practice self-control, and experience pleasure afterwards. This pioneering work has become a New York Times best seller.