Care Training: Module I

(FALL 2019)

SESSION 6

Common Critical Situations at PCC

Intimate Partner Violence
Suicide
Addictions
Affairs
Eating Disorders
Psychosis

The Problem of Evil

"Is [God] willing to prevent evil, but not able? then is he impotent. Is he able, but not willing? then is he malevolent. Is he both able and willing: whence then is evil?"

David Hume, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, part 10.

The Problem of Evil

Natural evil:

hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis

cancer, multiple sclerosis

Moral evil involving free moral agents:

war, crime, cruelty, racism, slavery

The Problem of Evil

My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of *just* and *unjust*? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust? If the whole show was bad and senseless from A to Z, so to speak, why did I, who was supposed to be part of the show, find myself in such violent reaction against it? A man feels wet when he falls into water, because man is not a water animal: a fish would not feel wet. Of course I could have given up my idea of justice by saying it was nothing but a private idea of my own. But if I did that, then my argument against God collapsed too—for the argument depended on saying that the world was really unjust, not simply that it did not happen to please my private fancies. Thus in the very act of trying to prove that God did not exist—in other words, that the whole of reality was senseless—I found I was forced to assume that one part of reality—namely my idea of justice—was full of sense. Consequently atheism turns out to be too simple. If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning: just as, if there were no light in the universe and therefore no creatures with eyes, we should never know it was dark. *Dark* would be without meaning. C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

The Problem of Evil

"If you are sure that this natural world is unjust and filled with evil, you are assuming the reality of some extra-natural (or supernatural) standard by which to make your judgment." Tim Keller, *The Reason for God*

The Problem of Evil and Jesus

A singular kind of suffering

"He began to be greatly distressed and troubled." (Mark 14:33-34)

"And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground." (Luke 22:44)

"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me." (Luke 22:42 and Mk 14:36)

"Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Lk 27:46)

The Problem of Evil and Jesus

Jesus, one triune God and perfect, as "victim "of evil

Abandonment and separation from the Father

The Problem of Evil and Jesus

"They say of some temporal suffering, "No future bliss can make up for it," not knowing that Heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even that agony into glory."

C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*

The Problem of Evil and Jesus

"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Revelation 21: 3-4

The Problem of Evil and The Importance of Christian Imagination

Remedy for despair in being faced with or being in the throes of suffering and evil

In extending grace in the midst of evil

The Problem of Evil and The Importance of Christian Imagination

"The general strategy of the Apocalypse [Revelation] is to oppose to the ordinary view of reality, as anyone might experience it in Smyrna or Laodicea, a quite different picture of the world as seen from the standpoint of heaven… The business of this writing is to stand things on their heads in the perceptions of its audience, to rob the established order of the most fundamental power of all: its sheer facticity. The moral strategy of the Apocalypse, therefore, is to destroy common sense as a guide for life."

(Wayne A. Meeks, *The Moral World of the First Christians*, pp. 143-45)

The Problem of Evil and The Importance of Christian Imagination

Hence the need to form our children's imaginations, to counter what the culture and our failings both teach them. By "imagination" I mean the faculty that controls what we, and especially children, think the world is like. It gives us the map by which we plot our course. It gives us our vision of the world about which our mind thinks and on which our will works. It tells us what feels normal, average, to be expected, what feelings should go with what actions.

David Mills, *Enchanting Children*

The Problem of Evil and The Importance of Christian Imagination

Remedy for despair in being faced with or being in the throes of suffering and evil

In extending grace to evildoers

The Problem of Evil and The Importance of Christian Imagination

2 Samuel 12

Nathan and David

Proverbs

Jesus and his parables

The Problem of Evil and The Importance of Christian Imagination

"Fiction can sometimes, like Nathan the prophet's story of the ewe lamb, awaken parts of us that we have calloused over, due to ignorance or laziness or inattention or sin…Fiction helps the Christian to learn to speak in ways that can navigate between the boring abstract and the irrelevant mundane. It also enables you to learn insights about human nature. I've never had a problem with drug addiction. I can't imagine why on earth anyone would take meth. [About Wendell Berry] Reading stories of life in Eastern Kentucky and about the motivations behind a meth addict can teach me to address those things biblically, and to see where I have similar idolatry that would be just as incomprehensible to someone else.

Russell Moore, *Why Christians Should Read Fiction*

The Problem of Evil:
Paradox and Resolution

The difficulty of bringing God's omnipotence into consistent relation with his goodness has engaged all ages of religious thought. But the most adequate religion solves its problems in paradoxes rather than schemes of consistency, and has never wavered in believing that God is both the ground of our existence and the ultimate pinnacle of perfection toward which existence tends. Therefore, the highest human excellencies are clues to the character of God…
The mystery of life is comprehended in meaning, though no human statement of the meaning can fully resolve the mystery. The tragedy of life is recognized, but faith prevents tragedy from being pure tragedy. Perplexity remains, but there is no perplexity unto despair. Evil is neither accepted as inevitable nor regarded as a proof of the meaninglessness of life. Gratitude and contrition are mingled, which means that life is both appreciated and challenged.

Reinhold Niebuhr, *Optimism, Pessimism, and Religious Faith*

The Problem of Evil

Christ

Christian Imagination

Are you ready?

Mandated Reporting

Physical abuse
Neglect
Sexual Abuse
Emotional Abuse

Mandated Reporting

Newer Addition

Any person who has downloaded, streamed, accessed any child pornography on the internet

Mandated Reporting

(32) A clergy member, as specified in subdivision (d) of Section 11166. As used in this article, "clergy member" means a priest, minister, rabbi, religious practitioner, or similar functionary of a church, temple, or recognized denomination or organization.

(33) Any custodian of records of a clergy member, as specified in this section and subdivision (d) of Section 11166.

Mandated Reporting

The responsibility for reporting rests solely with the mandated reporter. Reporting suspected abuse to an employer, supervisor, school principal, school counselor, coworker, or other person is not a substitute for reporting to a child protective agency.

Mandated Reporting

Child abuse must be reported when one who is a legally mandated reporter knows or reasonably suspects that a child has been the victim of child abuse or neglect. (P.C. 11166[a]).

Reporting your concerns does not require certainty that child abuse or neglect has occurred, nor does it require a specific medical indication of child abuse or neglect; any reasonable suspicion is sufficient. This prevents delays in reporting, which can hinder investigations by authorities.

Mandated Reporting

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA)

Mandated Reporting Is Not:

Being an investigator

Being an agent of law enforcement

Mandated Reporting

You must make a report immediately (or as soon as practically possible) by phone to your local Child Welfare Department or Law Enforcement Agency. A written report must be forwarded within 36 hours of receiving the information regarding the incident. The written report must be filed on Department of Justice Form SS 8572 (DOJ SS 8572), known as the Suspected Child Abuse Report Form.

Mandated Reporting

A person who fails to make a required report is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and/or up to a $1,000 fine. He or she may also be subject to a civil lawsuit, and found liable for damages.

Mandated Reporting

Those persons legally mandated to report suspected child abuse have immunity from criminal or civil liability for reporting as required, unless the report is proven to be false and the person reporting knows it is false, or the report is made with reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the incident (P.C. 11172 [a]).

No supervisor or administrator may impede or inhibit a report or subject the reporting person to any sanction (P.C. 11166 [f]). To do so is punishable by imprisonment, a fine, or both.

Reports are confidential and may be disclosed only to specified persons and agencies (P.C. 11167.5)

Signs of Child Abuse

- infants excessive crying or developmental delay
- fear, anxiety, clinging
- phobias
- nightmares, sleeping problems
- bed wetting
- social withdrawal
- hyperactivity
- poor concentration/distractibility
- decreased school performance
- chronic school absenteeism
- speech disorders
- destroys or injures objects or pets
- substance abuse
- self-harm such as cutting
- sexualized behavior
- symptoms of PTSD
- seems afraid of parent
- eating issues
- regressive behavior for age
- depression, passivity
- increased verbal abuse or physically aggressive behavior with others

Mandated Reporting for Adults

Adult Protective Services

Elder adults (age 65+) and Dependent Adults (ages 18-64) who are disabled

Welfare and Institution Code Section 15630

Mandated Reporting for Adults

Reasons for reporting

Physical: Hitting, kicking, burning, dragging, over or under medicating
Sexual Abuse: Unwanted sexual contact, sexual exploitation, forced viewing of pornography
Abandonment: Desertion or willful forsaking by anyone having responsibility for care
Isolation: Preventing the individual from receiving mail, telephone calls, visitors
Financial: Theft, misuse of funds or property, extortion, duress, fraud
Neglect: Failure to provide food, clothing, shelter, or health care for an individual under one's care when the means to do so are available.
Self-neglect: Failure to provide food, clothing, shelter, or health care for oneself.
Mental suffering: Verbal assaults, threats, causing fear.

Signs of Dependent Adult Abuse

- Withdrawn
- Confused or extremely forgetful
- Depressed
- Helpless or angry
- Hesitant to talk freely
- Frightened
- Secretive

Physical Signs

- Uncombed or matted hair
- Poor skin condition or hygiene
- Unkempt or dirty
- Patches of hair missing or bleeding scalp
- Scratches, blisters, lacerations or pinch marks
- Unexplained bruises or welts
- Burns caused by scalding water, cigarettes or ropes
- Injuries that are incompatible with explanations
- Any injuries that reflect an outline of an object, for example, a belt, cord or hand
- Malnourished or dehydrated
- Foul smelling
- Torn or bloody clothing or undergarments
- Any untreated medical condition

Signs of Dependent Adult Abuse

Isolation

- Elder is isolated or lonely with no visitors or relatives. Family members or caregiver isolate the individual, restricting the person's contact with others.

Financial

- Unusual bank account activity, such as withdrawals from automatic teller machines when the individual cannot get to the bank.
- Signatures on checks and other documents that do not resemble the elder's signature.
- Checks or other documents signed when the elder cannot write or understand what he or she is signing.
- Lack of personal amenities – appropriate clothing and grooming items.
- Numerous unpaid bills when someone else has been designated to pay the bills.
- Change in spending patterns, such as buying items he or she doesn't need and can't use.
- The appearance of a stranger who begins a new close relationship and offers to manage the elder's finances and assets.

Intimate Partner Violence or Domestic Violence

Statistics: Intimate Partner Violence

According to the Bureau of Justice, 90-95% of domestic violence victims are women.

As many as 95% of domestic violence perpetrators are male.

National Institute of Justice and the US Dept of Health and Human Services

Statistics

Studies of women killed by a husband or boyfriend show that 90% of the victims had reported at least one prior incident of abuse. The average number of calls to a scene before a domestic homicide is eight.

Up to 6 million women are believed to be beaten in their homes each year. 4 million incidents are reported. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence estimates that up to 90% of battered women never report their abuse.

Each year, at least 1500 women are killed by a current or former husband or boyfriend. According to FBI data, 4 women a day are murdered by a male partner. Over 30% (some estimate over 50%) of all murders of women in America are committed by intimate partners.

Statistics

According to a 1995 FBI survey, a woman is battered in the United States every 7 seconds.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: Violence Against Women,
Domestic violence is statistically consistent across racial and ethnic boundaries.

Definitions

Intimate Partner Violence or Domestic Violence

Intimate Partner Violence
(Center for Disease Control)

Physical violence, sexual violence, stalking and psychological aggression (including coercive acts) by a current or former intimate partner

Intimate Partner

An intimate partner is a person with whom one has a close personal relationship that can be characterized by the following:

Emotional connectedness
Regular contact
Ongoing physical contact and/or sexual behavior
Identity as a couple
Familiarity and knowledge about each other's lives

The relationship need not involve all of these dimensions.
Examples of intimate partners include current or former spouses, boyfriends or girlfriends, dating partners, or sexual partners. IPV can occur between heterosexual or same-sex couples and does not require sexual intimacy.

Types of Intimate Partner Violence

Physical

Sexual

Stalking

Psychological Aggression

Reasons for Presence of Violence

Power and Control

Signs of Violence

Their partner puts them down in front of other people

They are constantly worried about making their partner angry

They make excuses for their partner's behavior

Their partner is extremely jealous or possessive

They have unexplained marks or injuries

They've stopped spending time with friends and family

They are depressed or anxious, or you notice changes in their personality

Signs of Emotional Abuse

Calling you names, insulting you or continually criticizing you
Refusing to trust you and acting jealous or possessive
Trying to isolate you from family or friends
Monitoring where you go, who you call and who you spend time with
Demanding to know where you are every minute
Trapping you in your home or preventing you from leaving
Using weapons to threaten to hurt you
Punishing you by withholding affection
Threatening to hurt you, the children, your family or your pets
Damaging your property when they're angry
Humiliating you in any way

Signs of Emotional Abuse

Blaming you for the abuse
Gaslighting
Accusing you of cheating and being often jealous of your outside relationships
Serially cheating on you and then blaming you for his or her behavior
Cheating on you intentionally to hurt you and then threatening to cheat again
Cheating to prove that they are more desired, worthy, etc. than you are
Attempting to control your appearance: what you wear, how much/little makeup you wear
Telling you that you will never find anyone better, or that you are lucky to be with a person like them

Suicide

Suicide: Warning Signs

Tier 1

Tier 2

Suicide: Tier 1, Warning Signs

Someone threatening to kill themselves

Someone looking for ways to kill themselves

Someone talking or writing about death, dying, or suicide

Suicide: Tier 2, Warning Signs

- Hopelessness
- Rage, seeking revenge
- Reckless behavior
- Increase alcohol or drug use
- Dramatic changes in mood
- Feeling trapped
- Dramatic changes in spiritual beliefs
- Withdrawing from friends and family
- Anxiety, inability to sleep
- Problems identifying reasons for living or seeing a purpose in life

Suicide

Happens when pain exceeds an individual's resources for coping with pain

Suicide: Your Role

Gatekeeper

Provide resources and support to assist individuals in coping with their pain

Suicide: Your Role

Gatekeeper

- Connect
  - You can make a difference with their ambivalence
- Ask the Question
  - When in doubt ask anyways
- Respond/Refer
- Engage

Addictions

Alcohol and Substances

- High tolerance
- Risky or dangerous behavior
- Performance affected
- Trouble with law enforcement
- Defensiveness
- Continual use despite consequences

Addictions: Enabling

- Contributing to a person's abuse of a substance
- Cleaning up a mess made by the person abusing
- Dismissing his/her abuse despite signs of a problem
- Looking the other way

Affairs: A Few Thoughts

Most people never intend to commit adultery when they are saying their marital vows.

Sexual infidelity often begins with emotional infidelity

Rarely is it ever a spontaneous action absent of precursors

While certain individuals might have the propensity to "cheat" there is not a "type" (think back to the Problem of Evil)

Eating Disorders: Emotional and Behavioral Signs

In general, behaviors and attitudes that indicate that weight loss, dieting, and control of food are becoming primary concerns

Preoccupation with weight, food, calories, carbohydrates, fat grams, and dieting

Refusal to eat certain foods, progressing to restrictions against whole categories of food (e.g., no carbohydrates, etc.)

Appears uncomfortable eating around others

Food rituals (e.g. eats only a particular food or food group [e.g. condiments], excessive chewing, doesn't allow foods to touch)

Eating Disorders: Emotional and Behavioral Signs

Skipping meals or taking small portions of food at regular meals
Any new practices with food or fad diets, including cutting out entire food groups (no sugar, no carbs, no dairy, vegetarianism/veganism)
Withdrawal from usual friends and activities
Frequent dieting
Extreme concern with body size and shape
Frequent checking in the mirror for perceived flaws in appearance
Extreme mood swings

Eating Disorders: Physical Symptoms

Noticeable fluctuations in weight, both up and down
Stomach cramps, other non-specific gastrointestinal complaints (constipation, acid reflux, etc.)
Menstrual irregularities — missing periods or only having a period while on hormonal contraceptives (this is not considered a "true" period)
Difficulties concentrating
Abnormal laboratory findings (anemia, low thyroid and hormone levels, low potassium, low white and red blood cell counts)
Dizziness, especially upon standing
Fainting/syncope
Feeling cold all the time
Sleep problems

Eating Disorders: Physical Symptoms

Cuts and calluses across the top of finger joints (a result of inducing vomiting)
Dental problems, such as enamel erosion, cavities, and tooth sensitivity
Dry skin and hair, and brittle nails
Swelling around area of salivary glands
Fine hair on body (lanugo)
Cavities, or discoloration of teeth, from vomiting
Muscle weakness
Yellow skin (in context of eating large amounts of carrots)
Cold, mottled hands and feet or swelling of feet
Poor wound healing
Impaired immune functioning

Eating Disorders: Statistics

A 2007 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Study found that up to 1/3 of all Eating Disorder sufferers were male.

Eating Disorders have the highest mortality rate of any psychiatric illness.

Anorexia Nervosa ranks the 3rd most common chronic illness among adolescent U.S. females.

Eating Disorders

Perfectionism

Obsessionality

Psychosis

Hearing, seeing, tasting or believing things that others don't
Persistent, unusual thoughts or beliefs that can't be set aside regardless of what others believe
Strong and inappropriate emotions or no emotions at all
Withdrawing from family or friends
A sudden decline in self-care
Trouble thinking clearly or concentrating

Hospital and Home Visitations

Only make visit if the person(s) wants a visit.

Pray for the individual(s).

Stay only for a short duration, keeping hospital visitor guidelines in mind.

Case Studies or Role Play

Affairs

Through tears a woman begins to tell you that she has just found out her husband has a whole other family.

Intimate Partner Violence

A congregant divulges to you that last night was rough because she and her husband had a bad fight.
You say, "I'm so sorry." Which she responds with, "well we fight often, at least once a week." You notice bruises.
Or she tells you that sometimes it gets scary.

Intimate Partner Violence

You see a family driving away from church with mom, dad, and two children. Mom is slapping dad over and over again.

Sexual Abuse

A congregant discloses to you that she was sexually assaulted by a co-worker.

Suicidality

A congregant tells you that he feels so lonely.
In fact he has contemplated taking his life.

Child Abuse

You are serving in the children's ministry and you notice a child that comes in with random bruises and flinches when you command the room.

Addiction

You are wearing your name tag and a congregant walks up to you and says she has hit rock bottom. She woke up with empty bottles around her and isn't sure how her kid got to bed last night.

Psychosis

You are interacting with a volunteer and you begin to notice that some of his stories aren't adding up or that he lies frequently. Maybe he talks about people being after him.

Disordered Eating

A person comes to you and divulges that often times he throws up after eating or he restricts his caloric intake.

Questions and Comments?