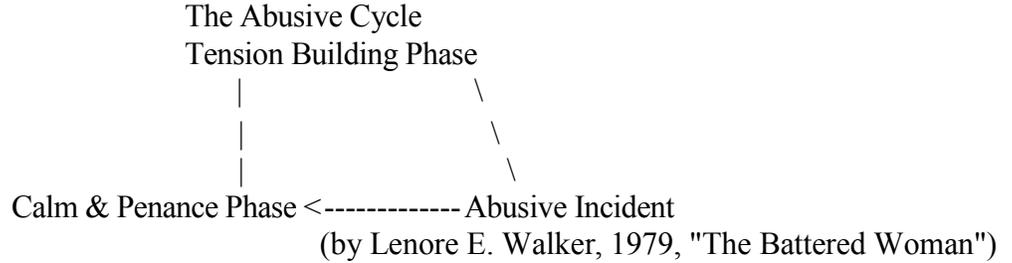


ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS



I. DIVINE LAWS AGAINST ABUSE:

[Physical] "He who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death." Ex 21:15

[Verbal] "He who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death." Ex 21:17

Lev 24:17 "If a man injures his neighbor, just as he has done, so it shall be done to him."

(NOTE: vs. 22 - one standard for all!!) Deut 27:24

"Curse is he who strikes his neighbor in secret."

II. DIVINE ACTION TAKEN AGAINST ABUSES:

OT "Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture...! am about to attend to you for the evil of your deeds... I shall raise up shepherds over them and they will tend them and they will not be afraid any longer, nor be terrified, nor will any be missing." Jer 23:1-4

NT Matthew 18:1-4 - woe announced 1 Peter 3:7 - the ears of God closed Revelation 6:10,15-17 - ultimate judgement pronounced

III. OPTIONS FOR THE ABUSED

NOT OPTIONAL

-Flee (note: David/Saul Saul/Church Paul/Government)

Vengeance (Rms 12:19)

- Appeal to a higher authority (Lk 18:3, Rms 13, 1 Cor 6:1-3)

Gossip (!Tim3:11)

-Rejoice & bless (1 Pet 4:13,19; 1 Pet 3:8,9)

Complaining (2 Cor 12:20)

-Help the abuser and take a stand with the aid of others

Dishonor (1 Pet 3:6)

(1 Tim 5:19-21; Matt 10:16 (shrewd))

Holding on to anger (Eph 4:26)

-Forgive and welcome back the repentant (Matt 6:14,15; 18:21-35)

(Note: True repentance requires a change - Matt 3:1-8 Lk 19:1 -10)

IV. QUESTIONS FOR THE ABUSED

1. Am I a slave for God or am I a slave of man? (1 Cor 7:20-23)

2. Is my staying helping or hindering the abuser from seeking change and repentance?(1 Cor 5, 2 Thess 3)

3. Am I staying for myself or for God? (Judges 14 & 16)

WHY WOULD SOMEONE REMAIN IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP? a) Guilt b) low self esteem c) praise of others d) other selfish reasons - sex, money, prestige

V. FRIENDS OF THE ABUSED

Ezek 34:4 - Rescue the abused

Prov 24:11,12 - deliver those staggering to slaughter Jude

23 - have mercy with fear

John 5:6, Prov 28:26 - invest your time with those who desire help & adhere to wise counsel Rms 14:16 - do not let your good be evil spoken of Rms 12:18 - if possible be at peace with all men 1 Cor 10:24 - seek the good for others 1 Cor 10:31 - do all to the glory of God CLOSING THOUGHT: The law and mercy (Matt 12)