

Faith

What's Faith Got To Do With It?

Description: A look at how faith informs and transforms men who are abusive. Two perspectives on identifying and using faith to understand and intervene with men who are abusive.

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Introductions:

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"We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone." 1Thessalonians 5:14

- The atmosphere of care = Patience with every believer
- The approaches to care
 - Admonish the unruly (Noutheteo = Warn, confront thinking)
 - Encourage the fainthearted (Paramutheiste = Speak Comfort)
 - Help the weak (Antechesthe= hold on to or hold off)

Faith **What's Faith Got To Do With It?**

Why is this important?

Because faith informs our worldview

- What do we believe about people?
- What do we believe about relationships?
- What do we believe about violence?
- What do we believe about Respect?

Faith **What's Faith Got To Do With It?**

For Instance
Abuse violates the belief that, "People are made in the Image of God."

- The Scriptures teach us that people are "sacred space"
- God exists in perfect Relationship (Trinity) therefore we are relational:
- We are created for a (His) purpose:

Faith **What's Faith Got To Do With It?**

For Instance
Abuse violates our understanding of the "Will of God"

- Clear directives to husbands forbid abusive behavior

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For Instance

Abuse violates our understanding of the "Heart of God"

- God consistently presents himself as "The God of Peace"

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Why is this important?

Because faith... Informs our diagnosis

- The Problem
- The Causes and Contributors to the Problem
- The Expectations of adherents and Consequences
- The Solutions

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For Instance

We are going to suggest that abuse (in all its forms) is "SIN"

Sin is a word in the Christian vernacular drawn from the Greek word "ha-mar-ti-a" Which basically means to "miss the mark." Sin is a clear deviation from the expectations set forth by God in the Bible.

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Jesus refers to the pervasive nature of "missing the mark" by comparing and contrasting good and evil with the fruit and root of a tree.

"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of." Luke 6:43-45

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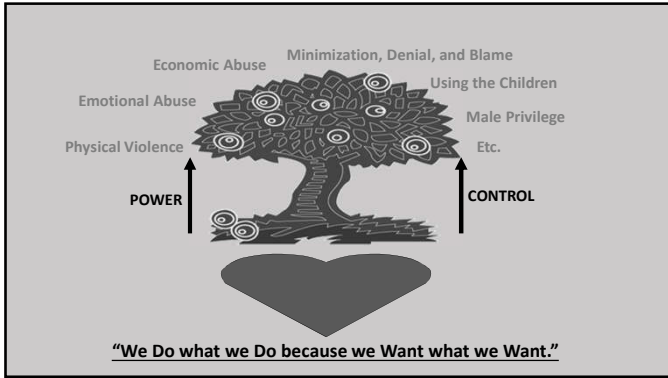
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Abusive behavior evidence a greater problem that lies within the heart (inner man) of an abusive person.

"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures... That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." James 4:1-6

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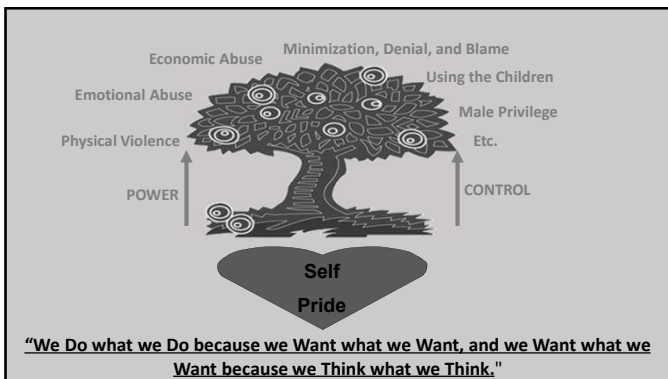


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Key to our theology of change is the centrality of our thinking.

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."
 Philippians 4:8-9



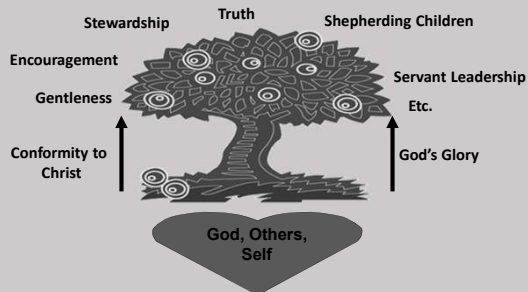
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Why is this important?

Because faith... Informs our Interventions

- Giving us a source of authority
- Giving us a clear direction for change
- Giving us a place of accountability



"We Do what we Do because we Want what we Want, and we Want what we Want because we Think what we Think."

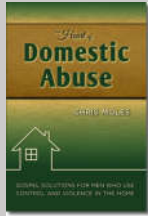


Learn more about Rev. Thicklin and his ministry at

<https://destinybychoice.org/>



Learn more about Rev. Moles and his ministry at
www.chrismoles.org



Be sure to pick up a copy of Chris' book
The Heart of Domestic Abuse
in the Self-Esteem Shop

Amazon.com or chrismoles.org

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