



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There's No Excuse for Abuse!

What Is God's Heart on Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence—two words that should not exist together. The home, by God's design, is meant to be a safe and secure place marked by love, respect, support, and growth. But in our broken, sin-sick world, abusive violence not only exists, but frequently occurs more than we realize. It doesn't just happen "out there" (in the world), but all too often happens in the home. Abuse in all its forms tears apart the fabric of the family—destroying relationships and damaging lives. But even in the darkness of abuse, hope can be found.

God cares about your home, about your family, and about *you*. God is a refuge for you and can help you move forward with your life.

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

(PSALM 46:1)

God's Heart on Domestic Violence

God cares for those who have experienced abuse.

"You have seen my troubles, and you care about the anguish of my soul" (PSALM 31:7 NLT).

God understands the pain of abuse.

"He [Jesus] was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain" (ISAIAH 53:3).

God hates violence and will judge the violent.

"The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked, those who love violence, he hates with a passion. On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot" (PSALM 11:5–6).

God calls for the abuser to change.

"Give up your violence and oppression and do what is just and right" (EZEKIEL 45:9).

God does not want you to associate with those prone to anger and violence.

"Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered" (PROVERBS 22:24).

God wants husbands to love their wives and not mistreat them.

"Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them" (COLOSSIANS 3:19).

God wants husbands to treat their wives with honor, care, understanding, and respect.

"Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers" (1 PETER 3:7).

God offers healing for those who have experienced the pain of abuse.

“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds” (PSALM 147:3).

God wants you to help those who are experiencing abuse.

“Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked” (PSALM 82:4).

God will end all violence and abuse one day.

“No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders . . . the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory . . . I am the LORD; in its time I will do this swiftly” (ISAIAH 60:18–19, 22).

God’s Heart for the Victim of Violence

Any *victim* continually abused by a spouse, parent, sibling, offspring or other relative needs to remember: Never mistake the silence of God for His absence. God has taken note of *every* abusive incident. As you pour out your heart to Him, He will always be with you, even during times of suffering.

God hears the cry and keeps track of the tears of the victim.

“You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book” (PSALM 56:8 NLT).

God sees the pain of the victim.

“‘You are the God who sees me,’ for she said, ‘I have now seen the One who sees me’” (GENESIS 16:13).

God holds the hand of the victim.

“I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you” (ISAIAH 41:13).

God confirms the worth of the victim.

“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows” (LUKE 12:6–7).

God avenges the victim.

“For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not ignore the cries of the afflicted” (PSALM 9:12).

Go Deeper

Want to learn more about this topic? Check out the *Keys for Living Library* to discover biblical hope and practical help on this topic and many more. The *Keys for Living* are designed to help you—and help you help others—overcome difficulties, grow in maturity, and move forward in life.

Thank you for your interest in Hope for the Heart. We pray God will encourage, equip, and empower you with His life-changing truth.

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