

HELPFUL RESOURCES

THEOLOGY OF OPPRESSION

DOMESTIC ABUSE PROTOCOL

DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY

BECOME A CARE ADVOCATE

# Domestic Abuse Care & Response Guide



# HELPFUL RESOURCES

Faith Youngsville's Domestic Abuse Care Team recommends the following organizations, ministries, and books as helpful resources for those who:

- 1) Need assistance escaping an abusive relationship
- 2) Want to become advocates for the abused and oppressed
- 3) Desire to know more about recognizing domestic abuse
- 4) Wish to partner with ministries serving the abused and oppressed

## ORGANIZATIONS

### Faith Youngsville

We provide advocates, advocacy training, safe and confidential disclosure, accountability, and additional assistance.

[care@faithnc.org](mailto:care@faithnc.org)

Faith also has a dedicated counseling ministry available.

[FaithNC.org/counseling](http://FaithNC.org/counseling)

### Called to Peace

This local ministry provides practical assistance and counsel to individuals affected by domestic abuse, as well as education for organizations and helpers to respond well to abuse.

[calledtopeace.org](http://calledtopeace.org)

### Interact

This Wake County organization provides court advocacy, crisis hotlines, community engagement and outreach, emergency shelter, sexual assault services, and much more.

[interactofwake.org](http://interactofwake.org)

### Focus Ministries

This ministry is devoted to offering hope, encouragement, education, and assistance to those in abusive situations, as well as training.

[focusministries1.org](http://focusministries1.org)

### House of Peace Virtual Training Center

This website provides online advocacy training for those who feel called to help and walk beside someone as they find their way out of abusive situations.

[houseofpeacepubs.com](http://houseofpeacepubs.com)

## BOOKS

### *Is It Abuse?: A Biblical Guide to Identifying Domestic Abuse and Helping Victims*

By Darby Strickland

### *Called to Peace: A Survivors Guide to Finding Peace and Healing After Domestic Abuse*

By Joy Forrest

### *The Emotionally Destructive Relationship: Seeing It, Stopping It, Surviving It*

By Leslie Vernick

### *The Heart of Domestic Abuse: Gospel Solutions for Men Who Use Control and Violence in the Home*

By Chris Moles

## SHELTERS

### Safe Space

Located in Louisburg  
Call 919.497.5444

### Interact of Wake

Located in Wake County  
24-Hour Hotline: 919.828.7740

# THEOLOGY OF OPPRESSION

- **God hates oppression.** Believers should always pay attention when the Bible tells us that God hates something. We should hate what God hates. “*The Lord examines the righteous, but he hates the wicked and those who love violence*” (Ps. 11:5).
- **God hears the cries of the oppressed and delivers them.** In Scripture when the oppressed cry out to God, He hears them, and He does something about it. God sees the oppressed, He hears the oppressed, and He acts on behalf of the oppressed to deliver them (see Gen. 16, 31 and Ex. 1–2).
- **God’s people must respond to human oppression as God responds to it.** Because God sees the oppressed, hears their cries and acts with compassion, mercy and justice, we should do the same.

# DOMESTIC ABUSE PROTOCOL

**In cases of domestic abuse, we will move: first to care for the *VICTIM*, then to correct the *PERPETRATOR*, and, finally, to reconcile the *MARRIAGE*.**

## VICTIM CARE

- Safety of the victim(s) is paramount.
- Listen and believe the victim(s).
- Recognize the signs and ask questions.
- Refer to the appropriate personnel in a timely manner.
- Report the abuse of minors, elderly persons, or disabled persons as required by North Carolina law.
- Assure the victim(s) that it is not their fault.
- Assist practically as desired by the victim(s).
- Care Counseling as desired by the victim(s). Counseling should be individualized, aimed at the trauma/abuse and recovery (not marriage counseling or reconciliation).

## PERPETRATOR CORRECTION

- Confrontation of the abuser should only occur with the advice and consent of the victim and after safety has been established.
- Provide education and accountability if the abuser is open to it.
- Professional counseling should be individual counseling aimed at the issues underlying abusive behaviors.
- Repentance is the goal. Worldly sorrow can sometimes appear to be godly sorry; however, genuine repentance always becomes evident over time.
- The goal is to move faster with care and slower with confrontation and correction.

## MARRIAGE RECONCILIATION

- Reconciliation to God takes precedence over the marriage.
- Reconciliation of the marriage should take place only when both parties’ counselors agree that both parties are ready.

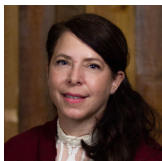
# DOMESTIC ABUSE CARE TEAM LEADERS



**Aubrey Cooper**  
Care Ministry Pastor



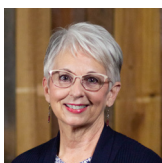
**Kiersten Lewis**  
Women's Ministry Director



**Shannon Oaks**  
Care Coordinator & Counselor



**Katharine Ray**  
Bible Study Leader & Counselor



**Robin Wilkie**  
Care Ministry Assistant



**Susie Horner**  
Domestic Abuse Care  
Team Advocate



**Daniel Joyner**  
Law Enforcement Representative

## DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY

**Domestic abuse is an abuse of power, manifested through selfishly motivated patterns of behavior intended to exercise or maintain control over one's family member.**

- Abuse is an assault upon the image of God in another human being. Abuse is not love. It is one image-bearer of God selfishly and sinfully implementing power and control over another human being created in the image of God in the context of a relationship.
- Domestic violence can take many forms: physical, verbal, spiritual, emotional, psychological, economic, sexual, stalking and harassment.
- Abuse usually occurs in a pattern that is typically increasing in frequency and/or intensity.
- Abuse is intentional, though the abuser may not be self-aware enough to recognize the intentions of his or her own heart. Abuse is never perpetrated on accident.
- Abuse is about the misuse of power to control or manipulate another for selfish gain and is an act of oppression.
- The goal of abuse is self-gratification—to get what one wants at the expense of another.



Domestic abuse, which can be used interchangeably with the term “domestic violence” is pervasive in our culture. One in 4 women and 1 in 7 men report having experienced domestic abuse in their lifetime.<sup>1</sup> Since domestic abuse is underreported, these statistics do not represent the vast nature of domestic abuse. It is probable that domestic abuse is present in the church, so we must be alert to it.

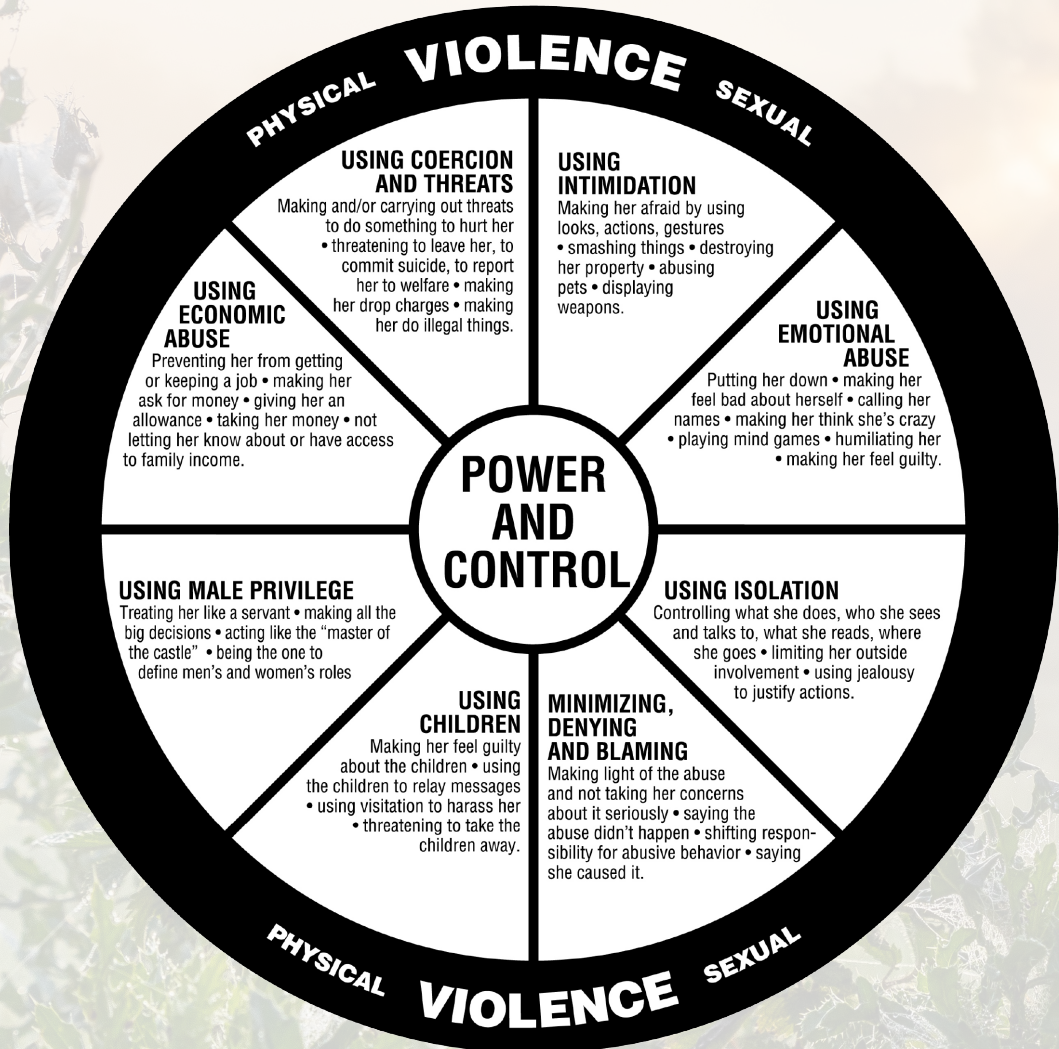
Domestic violence in any form—physical, sexual, emotional, economic, psychological or spiritual—is an assault upon the image of God in a fellow human being and is therefore an assault upon God Himself. When it is between a husband and a wife, it further violates the one-flesh covenantal relationship that God established in Genesis 2. Under no circumstance is abuse ever justified, nor is it ever the fault of the victim. Domestic abuse severely damages relationships. Without the intercession of God Himself, it often destroys the relationship beyond repair. An act of abuse is never an act of Christian love. Christ’s self-giving love encourages thriving, while domestic abuse seeks to stifle the victim’s autonomy through dominance, replacing love with fear. Acknowledging these truths, Faith Baptist Church Youngsville affirms the following:

- Domestic abuse in all its forms is sinful and incompatible with the Christian faith and a Christian way of living.
- All abuse is spiritually damaging for both the victim and the abuser and has collateral damage that extends to children, extended family, and close friendships.
- Domestic abuse is a serious problem which occurs within the Church as well as in wider society.
- Domestic abuse is not primarily an anger problem, a marriage problem, the victim’s problem or even a legal problem, but rather a sin problem.
- Statistically, domestic abuse is primarily perpetrated by men against the very people whom God has given them to protect and shepherd—namely women and children.
- We will listen to, believe, support and care for those affected by domestic abuse.
- We will urge abused persons to consider their own safety and that of family members first and to seek help from the church, professional counseling, and legal resources. This is to bring healing to the individuals and, if possible, to the marriage relationship.
- We will not seek to investigate charges of abuse. Rather, when appropriate we will report abuse to the legal authorities and cooperate with them for the protection of abuse victims.
- We will refer both the abused person and the perpetrator of the abuse to competent professional counselors, and legal counsel, and rely upon their determinations.
- We will stand with victims in seeking legal remedies when appropriate.
- We will discipline abusers and remove them from the church if they are unrepentant.
- We will work with local domestic violence support agencies. We will learn from them and will support them in appropriate ways.
- We will teach that domestic abuse is a sin.
- We will teach what it means to be male and female image-bearers of God, equal in value, dignity and worth.
- We will train all pastors/elders, ministers, staff, deacons, and lay leaders at Faith Baptist Church on domestic abuse awareness and prevention.
- We will seek to utilize trained professionals to encourage best practices and keep appropriate leadership trained in and informed about the implementation of the domestic abuse policy.

<sup>1</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey” (2010).

# SIGNS OF AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP

Developed by Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs in 1984 as a way to describe battering for victims, offenders, practitioners in the criminal justice system and the general public, the Power and Control Wheel makes the pattern, intent and impact of violence visible. This tool offers an explanation of the eight most common tactics used by abusers against their victims. Video overviews of each section of the wheel are available at [www.theduluthmodel.org/wheels](http://www.theduluthmodel.org/wheels).



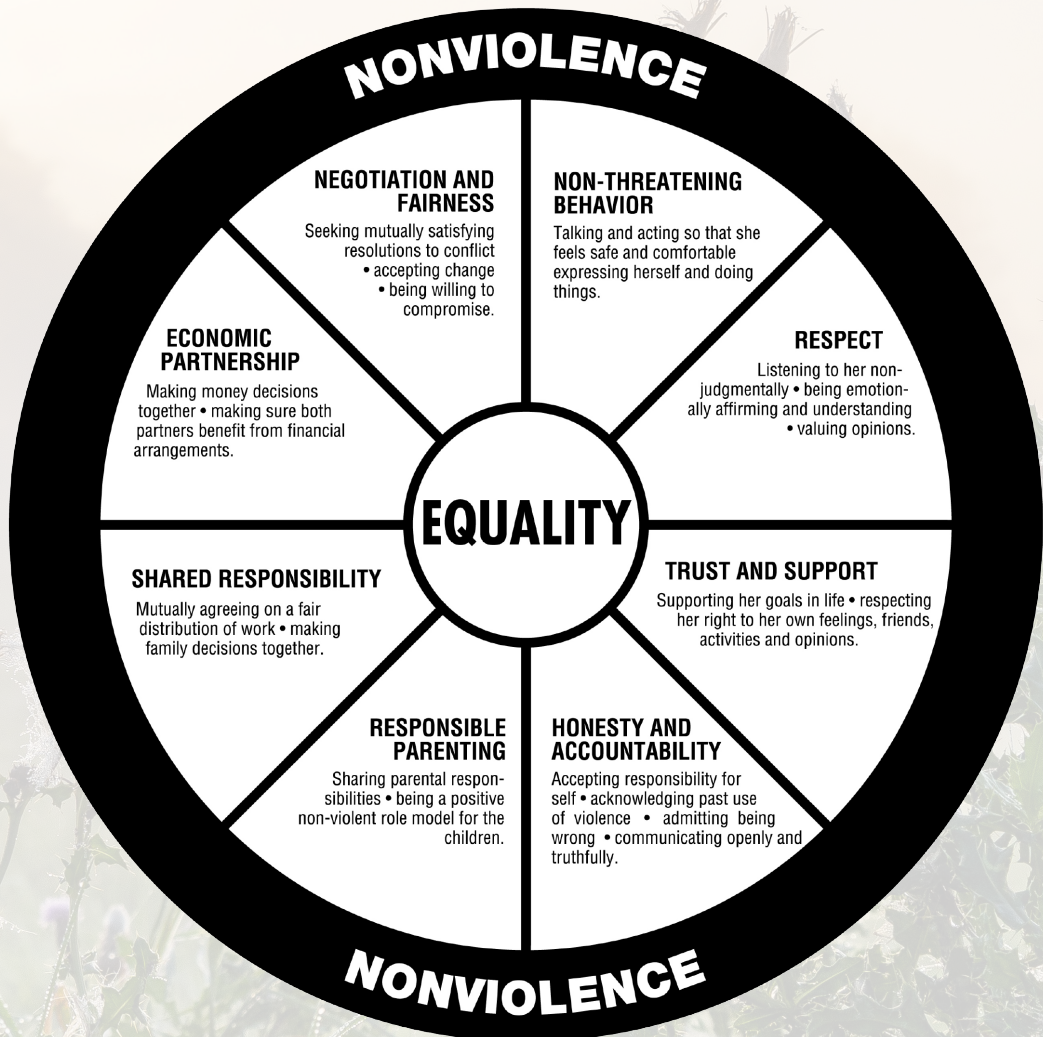
DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

202 East Superior Street  
Duluth, Minnesota 55802  
218-722-2781

[www.theduluthmodel.org](http://www.theduluthmodel.org)

# SIGNS OF A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP

The Equality Wheel, also developed by Domestic Abuse Prevention Programs, serves as a guideline for a healthy relationship. The Equality Wheel can be used along with the Power and Control Wheel to identify and explore abuse, then encourage non-violent change. This wheel reflects the definition of a loving relationship as found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.



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## BECOME A CARE ADVOCATE

**Faith Youngsville care advocates aim to offer compassionate support and give their voice for those who are abused and oppressed. Care advocates enter into difficult situations, by the grace and power of God, to peaceably walk alongside, encourage, defend, protect and care for the hurting.**

Email the Care Coordinator at [care@faithnc.org](mailto:care@faithnc.org) for more information.

## NEED AN ADVOCATE?

**If you need assistance escaping an abusive relationship, please reach out to our Care Team. Our group of trained leaders can provide a safe and confidential setting to disclose abuse, as well as additional help and resources for care and advocacy.**

Email the Care Coordinator at [care@faithnc.org](mailto:care@faithnc.org) for assistance.

