

WHOLENNESS



AND

Abuse

Abuse:

intentional harm

a pattern of coercive control marked by  
dehumanizing, oppressive, and/or  
manipulative treatment

Why, O LORD, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

<sup>2</sup> In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor; let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.

<sup>3</sup> For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul, and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, “There is no God.”

<sup>5</sup> His ways prosper at all times;  
your judgments are on high, out of his sight;  
as for all his foes, he puffs at them.

<sup>6</sup> He says in his heart, “I shall not be moved;  
throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity.”

<sup>7</sup> His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit  
and oppression;  
under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.

<sup>8</sup> He sits in ambush in the villages;  
in hiding places he murders the innocent.

His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless;

<sup>9</sup> he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket;

he lurks that he may seize the poor;

he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net.

<sup>10</sup> The helpless are crushed, sink down,  
and fall by his might.

<sup>11</sup> He says in his heart, “God has forgotten,  
he has hidden his face, he will never see it.”

<sup>12</sup> Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand;  
forget not the afflicted.

<sup>13</sup> Why does the wicked renounce God  
and say in his heart, “You will not call to account”?

<sup>14</sup> But you do see, for you note mischief and vexation,  
that you may take it into your hands;  
to you the helpless commits himself;  
you have been the helper of the fatherless.

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that you may take it into your hands;  
to you the helpless commits himself;  
you have been the helper of the fatherless.

<sup>15</sup> Break the arm of the wicked and evildoer;  
call his wickedness to account till you find none.

<sup>16</sup> The LORD is king forever and ever;  
the nations perish from his land.

<sup>17</sup> O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted;  
you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear

<sup>18</sup> to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,  
so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no  
more.

Psalm 10



Why, O LORD, do you stand far away? Why do you hide  
yourself in times of trouble?

# Four Biblical Truths about Abuse

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1) Abusers are arrogant, scheming, godless people.

“He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me? declares the Lord. 17 But you have eyes and heart only for your dishonest gain, for shedding innocent blood, and for practicing oppression and violence.”

Jeremiah 22:16-17

Application #1: Don't be naïve.

# Four Biblical Truths about Abuse

- 1) Abusers are arrogant, scheming, godless people.
- 2) God sees the abuse and hears the cries.

“10 The helpless are crushed, sink down, and fall by  
his might.”

14 But you do see, for you note mischief and vexation, that you may take it into your hands; to you the helpless commits himself; you have been the helper of the fatherless.

15 Break the arm of the wicked and evildoer. Call his wickedness to account until you find none.

17 O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear



“42 Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.”

Mark 9:42

Application #2: Don't blame the victim.  
It's not their fault.

# Four Biblical Truths about Abuse

- 1) Abusers are arrogant, scheming, godless people.
- 2) God sees the abuse and hears the cries.
- 3) Abuse is the anti-gospel from the antichrist.

Application #3: Don't mistake God for  
Satan.

Application #4: Choose leaders with  
proven character.

“2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach,  
the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-  
controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3  
not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not  
quarrelsome, not a lover of money.”

“6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may  
become puffed up with conceit and fall into the  
condemnation of the devil.”

1 Timothy 3:2-3, 6

# Four Biblical Truths about Abuse

- 1) Abusers are arrogant, scheming, godless people.
- 2) God sees the abuse and hears the cries.
- 3) Abuse is the anti-gospel from the antichrist.
- 4) God will execute justice.

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Micah 6:8



Application #5: We pursue safety and justice.

What about forgiveness?

Yes, we must forgive.

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Forgiveness does not mean avoiding justice or prosecution.

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Yes, we must forgive.

Forgiveness does not mean avoiding justice or prosecution.

Forgiveness does not always mean reconciliation.

What about forgiveness?

Forgiveness does not make light of sin.

# What about forgiveness?

Forgiveness does not make light of sin.

Forgiveness means letting go of bitterness and hoping for their genuine repentance, trusting God with the final justice.

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