

Effects and Impact of Domestic Violence on Families, Churches and Society in General

On Women	On Children
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Isolation from others -Depression, helplessness, hopelessness -Increased alcohol and drug use (dependence) -Illness -Suppression of anger -Lost work time, decreased productivity -Pain and injuries -Permanent physical damage -Poor communication skills -Dissociative states -Death -Suicide -Fear of abandonment -Anxiety and panic attacks -Dehydration -Manipulation, dependency and mood swings -Eating disorders -Emotional “over-reactions” to stimuli -General emotional numbing -Somatization disorders -Poor adherence to medical recommendations -Poverty -Sleep Disorders -Repeated self-injury -Sexual dysfunction -Self-neglect -Strained family relationships -An inability to adequately respond children’s needs -Suicide -Death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Isolation from others -Depression, helplessness, hopelessness -Low self-esteem -Illness -Increased fear / anger -Truancy -Increased risk of abuse, and injuries -Repetition of abusive behavior -Poor communication skills -Confusion with identity / role -Death -Suicide -Fear of abandonment -Excessive attention seeking -Bed-wetting -Manipulation, dependency and mood swings -Passivity with peers or bullying -Difficulty in trusting others, especially adults -Somatic complaints, headaches, stomach aches. -Nervous, anxious, short attention span -Tired and lethargic -Poor personal hygiene -High risk play -Developmental delays -Suicide -Death
On Men	On Society
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increased belief that power and control are legitimately achieved by violence -Increase in violent behavior -Risk of Homicide -Increased contact with Law Enforcement -Increased emotional problems -Decreased self-esteem and self-respect -Feelings of inadequacy -Homicide -Death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increase in crime -Increase in Legal, Police, Medical and Counseling costs -Cost of prison -Lost work time -Increased insurance costs -Perpetuation of inequality of women and men -Perpetuation of the intergenerational cycle of abuse -Decrease in general quality of life -Breakdown of the family structure -Homicides -Suicides -Death

On the Church

- Loss of membership because of the failure to believe and protect victims and hold abusers accountable
- Victims believe that God does not care for them
- There is misrepresentation of God's love for His children
- There is misinterpretation of Scripture that perpetuate wrong concepts of headship, submission, etc.
- Lawsuits
- Disillusionment with church and its practice of doctrines
- A spirit of criticism, perfectionism is fostered
- Lack of trust in leadership
- Lack of respect for leadership
- Worldliness
- Lack of faith in the brotherhood/sisterhood of Christ
- The church is viewed as being more concerned about its image rather than the well- being of its members
- Secrecy
- The act of forgiveness (or lack of it) is seen as indicative of one's spirituality
- The belief is perpetuated that if one is a "good" Christian he or she will not be abused or be abusive
- Members are afraid to tell of their abuse for fear of losing membership, friendship, and influence
- Division occurs in the congregation as some feel the abuser should be held accountable while others find it hard to believe that such a charming individual would abuse their loved ones
- There is the perception that those who have money to contribute to the church can control the church
- It is perceived that clergy, and church leadership are above God's law.
- Homicide
- Suicide
- Death

**WHEN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ABUSE IS
ALLOWED TO CONTINUE WE ALL LOSE!**

