

Love One Another: Dating Violence and Christianity

Teen dating violence can be a micro-cosm of family violence. Relationship patterns and personal identity construction developed during the adolescent and teen years set the stage for the future. If we want to prevent and eliminate family violence, we need to help teens develop the skills needed to foster healthy dating relationships.

Dating violence prevention programs should be part of a comprehensive approach involving partnerships with schools, government organizations, community agencies churches, parents and youth. Youth pastors play a vital role in educating teens about what love is and what love is not. It is our hope that we can help teens in families of faith gain some of the skills they need to prevent abusive relationships through the interactive nature of the RAVE Dating Game.



The RAVE Project
Religion and Violence e-Learning

www.theraveproject.org



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The RAVE Project

(Religion and Violence e-Learning)

Team Mission

There is no place like home; when abuse strikes, there is no home.

RAVE seeks to equip religious leaders to respond to domestic violence ways that are compassionate, practical, and informed by the latest research and best practices for professionals;

RAVE seeks to build bridges between the steeple and the shelter;

RAVE seeks to walk alongside victims and survivors on their journey towards healing and wholeness; and

RAVE seeks to hold abusers accountable for their actions, while offering hope for a transformed life.

Members of the RAVE Project Team

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Social and Cultural Factors Contributing to Dating Violence

- Gender-based power inequity
- Sexism and violence in the media
- Sex role stereotyping
- Unrealistic expectations of romantic love

Individual Factors Contributing to Dating Violence

- Jealousy
- Anger
- Alcohol and drugs
- Witnessing domestic violence in family
- Experiences of child abuse
- Aggressive personalities
- Coercion and domination
- Limited social support
- Peer pressure to date
- Aspects of the high risk student lifestyle: partying, drinking to excess, lack of guardians and the presence of motivated offenders.

Canadian Statistics on Dating Violence

- The 1993 Canadian National Survey (DeKeseredy and Kelly) sampled 3142 university and college students in Canada. When questioned about experiences of abuse in their elementary (Grades 1 to 8) dating relationships 19% of the men reported that they had been emotionally abusive while 4 percent had been physically abusive. Amongst the women, 4% reported that they had been physically forced to engage in sexual activities, 24% said that their partners had hurt them emotionally, and 7.2% said they had been physically hurt;
- That same study reported that between 16% and 35% of young women reported having experienced at least one physical assault by a male dating partner, 28% experienced at least one incident of sexual abuse in the previous 12 months and 45% had been victimized in a dating relationship since leaving high school;
- In Atlantic Canada, a 2000 study of almost 1700 students in grades 7, 9 and 11 found that 29% of the young women and 13% of the young men had experienced some form of dating violence that was upsetting to them;
- A 1995 study of Quebec adolescents aged 15 to 19 years old found that 54% of the young women and 13% of the young men had experienced sexual coercion in a dating relationship

How Can We Help?

We offer resources for teens:

- The Dating Game
- Fast Facts about Dating Violence
- Contact information for shelters throughout Canada and the United States
- A downloadable safety plan
- Words of hope and awakening
- Information on violence around the world

Ideas on how to:

- Talk about family violence in your church youth group
- Assist a victim looking for help
- Raise awareness in your church on abuse
- Partner with your community to stop violence

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Need Help Now?

Call: