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Rave - FAQs

Religion and Violence e-Learning

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FAQS

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[Why don't women leave men who abuse them?](#)

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FAQ



What can the church do?

Religious congregations and their leaders help women to address the spiritual questions that surface when abuse impacts their relationships and home. The language of the spirit speaks of healing and of connecting with God and with sisters and brothers in God's family. When the resources of the community are brought together with resources of the spiritual world, believers who have suffered abuse are given strength and support to combat even the greatest of fears. When clergy condemn abuse from the pulpit or in the privacy of their office, they bring hope and healing to women who have suffered. Christian women need to hear that abuse is always wrong, never part of God's design for healthy family living.

Ask a pastor

The church is a critical link in breaking the chain of domestic violence. People will often turn to a Minister or a church to seek solace and comfort in the midst of a spiritual and physical crisis that has been brought on because of domestic violence.

It is essential that the Minister in particular and the congregation in general be fully cognizant of the issues that surround domestic violence. Biblical admonitions to maintain the marriage bond in the face of domestic violence must not be upheld. Rather, the church must provide support, nurture, unconditional love and, above all, concrete suggestions as to how to end the violence. The church must never be reluctant to work with social agencies in the community to deal with cases of domestic violence within the church.

In addition, the church must not maintain a code of secrecy about the issue of domestic violence. In fact, educational workshops, sermons and outreach programs within the church must address the issue of domestic violence with courage, clarity and conviction.

*(Rev.) Linda C. Hunter,
Wild Rose United Church,
Calgary, Alberta.*

