

# Hyde County Hotline, Inc.

We are committed to promoting dignity, respect and safety at home resulting in safer communities.

October 2018

Website: [HydeCounty-Hotline.org](http://HydeCounty-Hotline.org)

Facebook: [Hyde County Hotline](#)

## *How to Combat Domestic Violence In the Church*

Abusers fail to find their identity in God. They cannot accept that they may be abandoned, hurt, or not respected by others, so they control the people around them to preserve their god-like identity. This means the abused cannot try to manage the situation. Trying to appease or avoid conflict won't change the abusers' real need to find their identity in Christ alone.

Abuse is a deliberate attempt to gain control. You don't overcome abusive behavior, then, by focusing on self-esteem or anger management. Abusers aren't sick; they're clever and driven by a desire to control. This means the abused aren't crazy or the ones to blame.

Awful things are often said about women who remain in abusive relationships. Instead of being one of those voices, let's try to understand why a woman may find it hard to leave. Fear of more violence, fear for her children, fear of her own future—these often paralyze and produce a fog that distorts reality. Abusers work hard to isolate those they're abusing by threatening, discrediting, or shaming them into thinking nobody will believe them. A wife may not necessarily hate her abusive husband; she just hates the abuse and wants it to stop. With all of his manipulative apologies, she believes he will change. And sadly, she hopes her suffering will achieve his redemption. It's heinous to think she stays because she's responsible for his behavior, or because she deserves the treatment she's getting.

One of Satan's greatest lies is getting you to believe you can remain unaffected by sin committed against you. The serpent wants you to keep quiet and not let the beauty of a risen Savior shape every part of your story. The church must learn how to give women back their voice so they can taste the wondrous reality of God's redeeming work for them. We must let the gospel have the last word.

## **4 Common Mistakes in Abuse Counseling**

### **1. Assume marriage must be preserved at all costs**

Sadly, the church can become a place of more abuse, misapplying biblical texts to promote the abuse of power by a husband or the place of suffering for a wife—all in the name of “submission.” A woman who’s been battered, neglected, or verbally abused doesn’t need marriage counseling with her husband; she needs to hear of the protective, loving, and redeeming work of Jesus. I fear that if some sat in our well-taught congregations, he would be told to attend anger management classes and she to simply serve her husband. Earthly marriage isn’t our god.

### **2. Assume all divorce is sin**

God not only hates divorce, but also the one whose garment is covered with violence (Malachi 2:16). A violent and abusive man has broken the marriage covenant by his sinful choices; he is the “divorcer,” and that marriage is not honoring to the Lord (1Cor. 7:15). I know the topic of divorce is exegetically complicated and ecclesially controversial, but I am amazed at the responses I often get from pastors on this issue. The husband is abusive, and the wife pursues divorce. Some churches refuse to condone divorce even at the expense of her safety. Let’s be courageous in our ministry.

### **3. Misapply headship and submission**

Ephesians 5:22-23 beautifully displays God’s design for the home. It’s a high and holy calling, one never to be downplayed or tweaked to “fit the times.” The problem isn’t God’s pattern; it’s man’s corruption.

We don’t need to become feminists to speak against domestic violence and abuse. We need to stand in the truth of God’s Word and in the gap of a culture gone mad.

**The purpose of Hyde County Hotline, Inc. is to work to eliminate domestic abuse and sexual victimization in Hyde County, North Carolina, through the collaborative efforts of a compassionate community We promote dignity, safety and respect at home resulting in safer communities.**

#### **4. Misunderstand forgiveness**

We must rightly understand the biblical teaching on forgiveness and reconciliation. The end goal isn't a man back in the home; the end goal is holiness. Reconciliation isn't the same thing as reunion, and forgiveness isn't a demand from the abuser that we can "get on with things."

### **6 Things We Can (and Must) Do**

#### **1. Prioritize safety**

It's not uncommon for a woman to really think her abusive husband will kill her. This fear should never be dismissed as "extreme" or "dramatic." The church that fails to prioritize the physical and emotional protection of the vulnerable fails to practice "pure and undefiled religion" (James 1:27)

#### **2. Listen compassionately**

If someone's brave enough to share her story with you, listen with compassion. Express gratitude for her vulnerability, pray with her, and then connect her with an experienced domestic violence agency.

#### **3. Avoid quick fixes**

Don't go into "fix it" mode, scrambling to get every detail and to reunite victim with perpetrator. While safety should be secured immediately, clarity and healing take time.

#### **4. Increase understanding**

Ask experienced domestic violence agencies to present programming at your church. Take advantage of their knowledge and any materials they may have.

#### **5. Offer hope**

Nothing gives hope—hope for forgiveness, hope for healing, hope for change—like the gospel of Jesus Christ. Communicate and apply this good news with humble conviction. And always acknowledge the fact that this violence is not the victims fault.

#### **6. Provide accountability**

As you encounter abusers, rebuke and report them. Don't let fear of awkwardness (or worse) keep you silent. By God's grace, do the courageous and loving thing.

*Mark Spansel, [thegospelcoalition.org](http://thegospelcoalition.org)*

# **OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

## **What are the rights of a domestic violence victim?**

- ◆ You have the right to be given information about the crime and how the criminal justice system works.
- ◆ You have the right to be present throughout the entire trial of the defendant, subject to the right of the court to sequester witnesses.
- ◆ You have the right to talk with the prosecutor and have a Victim Impact Statement submitted to the court.
- ◆ You have a right to receive restitution.
- ◆ You have the right to be heard at the sentencing of the accused.
- ◆ You have the right to be notified or present when a case is scheduled for final disposition.
- ◆ You have the right to be notified of an escape, release, parole or pardon in the accused's sentence.
- ◆ You have the right to address your views to the agency considering the release of the accused.
- ◆ You have the right to contact the prosecutor's office or your local law enforcement agency if you are threatened by the defendant or anyone else.

## **Domestic Violence Offense**

### **Assault Inflicting Serious Injury [NCGS 14-33(b)(1), Class A1 Misdemeanor]**

A person is guilty of this offense if that person commits an assault on another and inflicts, or attempts to afflict, serious injury.

Serious injury is such physical injury as causes great pain or suffering. The injury must be bodily injury.

**We love Volunteers!!!**

Please help and call

Hyde County Hotline 252-  
925-2502

Thank you to the family Violence Prevention Ser-  
vices Program  
US DHHS, and NC Council for Women for financial  
support.



Nothing Compares

**HYDE COUNTY HOTLINE**  
**24 HOUR CRISIS LINE**  
**252-925-2500**

**Your Support Enables Hotline To Better Serve  
Victims and Survivors of Domestic Abuse**  
*Please Consider*

**Donating to our Thrift Store**  
**Financial Gifts**  
**Asking about a Presentation**

**Thank You!**

Please call for more information at **252-925-2502**

Hyde County Hotline offers support groups for victims  
and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual victimization.

Domestic abuse support group is offered 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks  
of each month.

Sexual assault support group is offered 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks  
of each month.



**OUR MISSION:**

**The purpose of Hyde County Hotline, Inc. is to work to eliminate domestic abuse and sexual victimization and provide safe shelter in Hyde County, North Carolina through the collaborative efforts of a compassionate community. We promote dignity, respect and safety at home resulting in safer communities.**