

What is Abuse?

Abuse is a systematic pattern of behaviors in a relationship used to gain and/or maintain power and control over another. It can include intimidation, fear, humiliation, degradation, agitation, disorientation, or other forms of serious emotional distress, as well as the forcing of undesired sexual behavior.

Abuse comes in many forms:

Physical Abuse
Verbal Abuse
Mental Abuse
Spiritual Abuse
Emotional Abuse
Economic Abuse
Sexual Abuse

- ♦ A woman is battered by her husband or intimate partner every 15 seconds
- ♦ A report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds
- ♦ Two to four million women are abused each year; 4,000 die
- ♦ About 30% of abused and neglected children will later abuse their own children, continuing the cycle of abuse



Advocacy for Victims of Abuse

Training available for churches, retreats, family camp, and individuals

AVA is for women and men alike. Both are welcome to receive training; congregations with effective AVA ministries have both women's and men's groups working simultaneously. Trainings include:

- ♦ AVA Local Advocate
- ♦ AVA Regional Coordinator
- ♦ Safe and Healthy Relationships
- ♦ What Pastors Need to Know About Abuse
- ♦ Mending the Soul Orientation for Everyone
- ♦ Mending the Soul Facilitator Training
- ♦ Faith Issues for Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse
- ♦ The Faith Community and Domestic Violence
- ♦ Why AVA?
- ♦ Religious Roadblocks and Resources

For more information or to schedule training, visit CovChurch.org/abuse.

He has sent me
to bind up
the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom
for the captives
and release from
darkness for
the prisoners.

Isaiah 61:1

The Evangelical Covenant Church

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