

A Biblical Perspective of Abuse

Selected Scripture

- I. God is the only true, ultimate authority (2 Ch. 20:6; Ps. 115:3; 135:6; Dan. 4:35; Eph. 1:11).
- II. God delegates limited authority to human beings.
 - A. Husbands within marriage (Eph. 5:22-24)
 - B. Parents over their children (Eph. 6:1-3)
 - C. Elders over the function and membership of a local church (Acts 20:28; 1 Th. 5:12; Heb. 13:17)
 - D. Human government over its citizens (Dan. 4:17; 5:18-21; Jn. 19:11; Rom. 13:1-4; 1 Pet. 2:13)

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- III. God has established limits on human authority in His Word.
 - A. Husbands (Eph. 5:25-33; Col. 3:19; 1 Pet. 3:7)
 - B. Parents (Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21)
 - C. Elders (1 Pet. 5:2-3)
 - D. Human Government (Ex. 1:17; 1 Kings 21:3; Dan. 6:10; Mt. 22:21; Acts 4:19; 5:29)

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- IV. God is dishonored and angered by those who misuse and abuse their delegated authority.
- A. Consistent, Unrepentant Sin Against Them (Jer. 23:14-15; Mark 12:40; 1 Pet. 3:7).
 - B. Physical or Sexual Abuse (Ps. 11:4-5; Pr. 3:31-34)
 - C. Dominating, Controlling, Unloving Leadership (Matt. 20:25-28)
 - D. Abusive Speech (Eph. 4:29-32)

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- V. God has provided accountability for those who abuse their authority.
 - A. In His Word (2 Tim. 3:16)
 - B. In Their Consciences (Rom. 1:32; 2:15)
 - C. Through Other Human Authorities
 1. Government is to deal with all illegal abuse (Rom. 13:1-4).
 2. The Church is to deal with abuse both legal & illegal (Matt. 18).
- VI. God Himself holds all human authorities accountable and will judge all who abuse their authority (Ps. 7:12-16; 10:12-16).