

It's Unacceptable – Bible Study Lesson

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT)

**4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud
5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.**

6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.

7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

Mark 3:24-25 (NLT)

24 “A kingdom divided by civil war will collapse.

25 Similarly, a family splintered by feuding will fall apart.

Matthew 7:12 (NLT)

12 “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

It's Unacceptable

Domestic violence not only affects those who are abused, but also has a substantial effect on family members, friends, other witnesses, and the community at large. Children, who grow up witnessing domestic violence, often become those seriously affected by this crime. Frequent exposure to violence in the home not only predisposes children to numerous spiritual, social, and physical problems but also teaches them that violence is a normal way of life.

Domestic Violence: A pattern of behavior where abusers use different ways to exercise their power and control; it may take the forms of physical, verbal, emotional, economic, and sexual abuse.

Every 15 seconds a woman in the United States is battered by a husband, boyfriend, or partner. That's 4 per minute, 240 per hour, 5760 per day, and 2.1 million per year! Every day at least 3 women are murdered by their intimate partners in our country. One out of every three women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime. As startling as those statistics are, we know it's even worse because domestic violence is one of the most chronically underreported crimes.

The Public Policy Office of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence estimates that only about one-quarter of all physical assaults and one-fifth of all rapes are ever reported. With much prayer, counseling, deliverance, and protection we can address this demonic epidemic. With this in mind, let's examine: **It's Unacceptable.**

Ephesians 4:29 (NLT)

29 Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

Verbal abuse is likely the most common form of domestic violence. There's a phrase that says, "***Sticks and stones may break my bones. But words will never hurt me.***" That was probably the most inaccurate thing ever taught. If this were true, we wouldn't still be rehearsing things said to us in our childhood. **Maybe you were never hit. But, what was said left bruises that still haven't healed. Remember: LIFE AND DEATH ARE IN THE POWER OF THE TONGUE.**

- 1. It's unacceptable to verbally dominate people.**

Proverbs 18:14 (NLT)

14 The human spirit can endure a sick body, but who can bear a crushed spirit?

Even if we don't remember what was said, we know how it made us feel. Emotional abuse is wicked and twisted. **It's when someone intentionally abuses the psychological or emotional dynamics in a relationship, such as the need for love, recognition, and acceptance, to manipulate and intimidate the other partner.** If I love you, why would I want you to feel inadequate, stupid or ugly? Part of me loving you, is helping you to

know how special you are. Remember: If we have to earn positive attention from you, you might be emotionally abusive.

2. It's unacceptable to emotionally manipulate people.

Genesis 2:18 (NLT)

18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."

Proverbs 24:6 (NLT)

6 So don't go to war without wise guidance; victory depends on having many advisers

Isolation is an abusive tool of the enemy. It often begins as an expression of love, with statements like, **"If you really loved me you would want to spend time with me, not your family."** **THAT'S NOT LOVE THAT'S FOOLISHNESS.** People who do this, try to keep you from people who most likely don't agree with their twisted views. Remember, we're a family, not a cult. **Anyone who wants to keep you from your family and friends could be an abuser.**

3. It's unacceptable to control and isolate people.

1 Peter 3:7 (NLT)

7 In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.

One of the most damaging and dangerous forms of abuse is sexual abuse. It is prevalent in our society. It has even reared its ugly head in the church. **YOU CANNOT HAVE SEX WITH SOMEONE AGAINST THEIR WILL. THAT'S RAPE!!** Just because they didn't physically force them doesn't mean it wasn't against their will. Sexual abuse is a mess, and it will mess your family up. **IF YOU LOVE ME YOU'LL PROTECT ME NOT ABUSE ME...**

4. It's unacceptable to sexually abuse people.

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT)

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.

32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

Proof of love is the desire to protect. Physical abuse is a tool of the devil. Hitting, kicking, biting, slapping, shaking, pushing, pulling, punching, choking, beating, scratching, or threatening physical assault is absolutely unacceptable. There is a demonic anger and rage that comes from feelings of inadequacy. They hit you because they want you to feel as bad about you as they do about them. He/she needs Jesus, counseling and time. **IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. AS SOON AS IT'S SAFE, GET YOURSELF AND YOUR CHILDREN OUT OF HARMS WAY.**

5. It's unacceptable to physically dominate people.

Domestic violence not only affects those who are abused, but also has a substantial effect on family members, friends, other witnesses, and the community at large. With much prayer, counseling, deliverance, and protection we can address this demonic epidemic. Domestic Violence: **It's Unacceptable.**