

Counseling Victims of Domestic Violence

Violence in the home is a major health and development issues worldwide. For many it invades or dominates the “sanctity” of the home – even so-called Christian homes. In this seminar we will consider verbal, emotional and physical abuse in the home, the impact of such abuse and what a godly response from the counsellor might look like.

***Diane Langberg** is a practicing psychologist whose clinical expertise includes 35 years of working with trauma survivors and clergy. She is director of Diane Langberg, PhD & Associates, a group practice in suburban Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She is a faculty member of Westminster Theological Seminary. She is the author of Counsel for Pastors’ Wives (Zondervan), Counseling Survivors of Sexual Abuse (Xulon Press) and On the Threshold of Hope: Opening the Door to Healing for Survivors of Sexual Abuse (Tyndale House). She is Chair of the Executive Board of the American Association of Christian Counselors, serves on the boards of GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in a Christian Environment) and the Society for Christian Psychology. She is also the founder of The Place of Refuge, an inner city, non-profit trauma and training center.*

I. Introduction

II. Kinds of Domestic Abuse

- a. Physical

- b. Verbal

- c. Emotional

- d. Financial

- e. Spiritual

III. The Counsellor’s Response to the Victim

IV. Understanding the Perpetrator

- a. Dynamics of deception and power

- b. Repentance – true or false?

Suggested Reading:

Jacobson, Neil and Gottman, John, When Men Batter Women, New York, Simon and Schuster, 2007.

C. Kroeger and J. Beck, Healing the Hurting, Grand Rapids: Baker Publishing, 1998.

N. Nason-Clark and C. Kroeger, Refuge from Abuse, Downers Grove, InterVarsity Press, 2004

N. Nason-Clark and C. Kroeger, No Place for Abuse, Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

Vernick, Leslie, Emotionally Destructive Relationships, Harvest House Publishers, 2007