

## **Leadership, Authority and Power in the Church and the Home**

The proper and godly use of power and influence in the Christian home and in the church will be considered in light of the example and teachings of our Lord to whom all power has been given. We will first come to an understanding of what power is and how we use it as well as consider various ways in which we can abuse our God-given power and bring harm to the sheep we have been called to shepherd. Finally, we will consider what power that is redemptive looks like in the life of a leader.

*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. Definition of Power**

### **III. Kinds of Power**

A. Physical

B. Verbal

C. Emotional

D. Knowledge

E. Position

### **IV. The Abuse of Power**

- A. Deception
- B. Control/Coercion
- C. Use of power to quell anxiety
- D. The Seduction of the good

## **V. Scriptural Understanding of Power**

- A. All power is derivative
- B. Internal versus external power
- C. Power held with humility
- D. Incarnational leadership

### ***Suggested Reading:***

Langberg, Diane, "Clergy Sexual Abuse", in Kroeger, Catherine Clark & Beck, James, *Women, Abuse and the Bible*, Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1996.

Shuster, Marguerite, *Power, Pathology and Paradox*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.