

SPRING TERM 2024 – WEEK 4

**BUILDING A COMMUNITY  
THAT PRIORITISES PRAYER**

*YOUR KINGDOM COME,  
YOUR WILL BE DONE,  
ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN.*

# AUTHORITY & POWER

WE CAN BE CONFIDENT THAT:

- WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE AUTHORITY IN CHRIST JESUS TO DO THIS
- THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL LEAD US IN THIS
- GOD WILL HEAR AND RESPOND TO OUR DECLARATION
- WE ARE PLAYING AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN GOD'S WORK OF ESTABLISHING HIS KINGDOM



## QUESTIONS

- HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT HAVING AUTHORITY IN CHRIST JESUS?
- IN WHAT WAYS AND CONTEXTS MIGHT YOU DECLARE “YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN”?
- IN WHAT AREAS ARE YOU AWARE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BEING AT WORK THROUGH YOU?

SILENCE IS ALWAYS A CHOICE

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BUT NEVER AN OPTION

DOMESTIC ABUSE – TWO PEOPLE AGED 16 OR OVER AND PERSONALLY CONNECTED

BEHAVIOUR IS “ABUSIVE” IF IT CONSISTS OF :

- (A) PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE;
- (B) VIOLENT OR THREATENING BEHAVIOUR;
- (C) CONTROLLING OR COERCIVE BEHAVIOUR;
- (D) ECONOMIC ABUSE;
- (E) PSYCHOLOGICAL, EMOTIONAL OR OTHER ABUSE;

CAN BE A SINGLE INCIDENT OR ONGOING

DOMESTIC ABUSE IS WIDESPREAD  
AND NOT DETERMINED BY  
GENDER, ETHNICITY OR RELIGION



VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE  
ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE THOSE  
WHO HAVE RELATIVELY LESS  
POWER

SOCIAL NORMS ARE A  
SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN  
LEGITIMISING AND SUSTAINING  
THE ACTIONS OF PERPETRATORS

## CONTROLLING BEHAVIOUR

A RANGE OF ACTS DESIGNED TO MAKE A PERSON SUBORDINATE AND/OR DEPENDENT BY ISOLATING THEM FROM SOURCES OF SUPPORT, EXPLOITING THEIR RESOURCES AND CAPACITIES FOR PERSONAL GAIN, DEPRIVING THEM OF THE MEANS NEEDED FOR INDEPENDENCE, RESISTANCE AND ESCAPE, AND REGULATING THEIR DAILY LIFE

## COERCIVE BEHAVIOUR

AN ACT OR A PATTERN OF ACTS OF ASSAULT, THREATS, HUMILIATION AND INTIMIDATION, OR OTHER ABUSE, THAT IS USED TO HARM, PUNISH, OR FRIGHTEN THEIR VICTIM



## KEY FACTS

- THE MAJORITY OF DOMESTIC ABUSE OCCURS WITHIN HETEROSEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS
- WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE
- MEN CAN BE VICTIMS/ SURVIVORS TOO
- VIOLENCE AND ABUSE ALSO OCCURS WITHIN LGBTQI+ RELATIONSHIPS

- 1 IN 3 WOMEN WILL EXPERIENCE DOMESTIC ABUSE IN THEIR LIFETIME
- 1 IN 6 MEN WILL EXPERIENCE DOMESTIC ABUSE IN THEIR LIFETIME
- 2 WOMEN ARE KILLED EVERY WEEK BY CURRENT OR FORMER PARTNERS (104 A YEAR)
- THE FIGURE FOR MEN IS 30 PER YEAR

*(CRIME SURVEY, ENGLAND AND WALES 2019 & OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS, 2019)*

## **SPIRITUAL ABUSE**

A FORM OF EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE CHARACTERISED BY A SYSTEMATIC PATTERN OF COERCIVE AND CONTROLLING BEHAVIOUR IN A RELIGIOUS CONTEXT.

SPIRITUAL ABUSE CAN HAVE A DEEPLY DAMAGING IMPACT ON THOSE WHO EXPERIENCE IT AND CAN BE EXPERIENCED IN A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIPS.

THE MISUSE OF A PASTORAL OR MENTORING RELATIONSHIP IN SUCH A WAY THE INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCES COERCION AND CONTROL JUSTIFIED BY THEOLOGY, SCRIPTURE OR DIVINE POSITION



### THIS ABUSE MAY INCLUDE:

- MANIPULATION AND EXPLOITATION
- ENFORCED ACCOUNTABILITY
- REQUIREMENTS FOR SECRECY AND SILENCE
- COERCION TO CONFORM, FOR EXAMPLE, SEEKING TO ENFORCE RATHER THAN ENCOURAGE BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES; FAILING TO ALLOW AN INDIVIDUAL AUTONOMY TO MAKE THEIR OWN CHOICES

- EXERCISING CONTROL THROUGH USING SACRED TEXTS OR TEACHING TO COERCE BEHAVIOUR
- REQUIREMENT OF OBEDIENCE TO THE ABUSER
- THE SUGGESTION THAT THE ABUSER HAS A 'DIVINE' POSITION
- ISOLATION AS A MEANS OF PUNISHMENT
- SUPERIORITY AND ELITISM

SPIRITUAL ABUSE MAY OCCUR ON ITS OWN, OR ALONGSIDE OTHER FORMS OF ABUSE, SUCH AS PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE.

IT MAY BE USED TO 'LEGITIMISE' OR FACILITATE OTHER FORMS OF ABUSE.

THERE MAY BE LONG PERIODS OF TIME IN WHICH THE VICTIM OF SPIRITUAL ABUSE EXPERIENCES POSITIVE MOMENTS, BEFORE THE SPIRITUALLY ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR OCCURS OR REOCCURS. THIS MAY LEAD TO SELF-DOUBT THAT THE BEHAVIOUR IS HARMFUL.

<sup>25</sup> JESUS CALLED THEM TOGETHER AND SAID, 'YOU KNOW THAT THE RULERS OF THE GENTILES LORD IT OVER THEM, AND THEIR HIGH OFFICIALS EXERCISE AUTHORITY OVER THEM. <sup>26</sup> NOT SO WITH YOU. INSTEAD, WHOEVER WANTS TO BECOME GREAT AMONG YOU MUST BE YOUR SERVANT, <sup>27</sup> AND WHOEVER WANTS TO BE FIRST MUST BE YOUR SLAVE – <sup>28</sup> JUST AS THE SON OF MAN DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE, AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY.'



THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO ME: <sup>2</sup> 'SON OF MAN, PROPHECY AGAINST THE SHEPHERDS OF ISRAEL; PROPHECY AND SAY TO THEM: "THIS IS WHAT THE SOVEREIGN LORD SAYS: WOE TO YOU SHEPHERDS OF ISRAEL WHO ONLY TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES! SHOULD NOT SHEPHERDS TAKE CARE OF THE FLOCK? <sup>3</sup> YOU EAT THE CURDS, CLOTHE YOURSELVES WITH THE WOOL AND SLAUGHTER THE CHOICE ANIMALS, BUT YOU DO NOT TAKE CARE OF THE FLOCK. <sup>4</sup> YOU HAVE NOT STRENGTHENED THE WEAK OR HEALED THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR BOUND UP THE INJURED. YOU HAVE NOT BROUGHT BACK THE STRAYS OR SEARCHED FOR THE LOST. YOU HAVE RULED THEM HARSHLY AND BRUTALLY.

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*FOR EVERYONE  
ON A JOURNEY TO FREEDOM,  
THERE IS HOPE*