

## The Christian and Domestic violence

### A real story

1 in 3 women ... experienced physical violence since 15 years old (2.56 million women).

NSW (12 years) 1000 murders related to domestic violence,

92 % of the victims were female

100% of domestic violence related murders were as a result of male driven domestic violence.

### What is domestic violence?

*“Domestic violence is a pattern of controlling and abusive behaviour used by an intimate partner during a relationship or after a separation”*

(domestic violence handbook for clergy and church workers 2010).

### What does the bible really say?

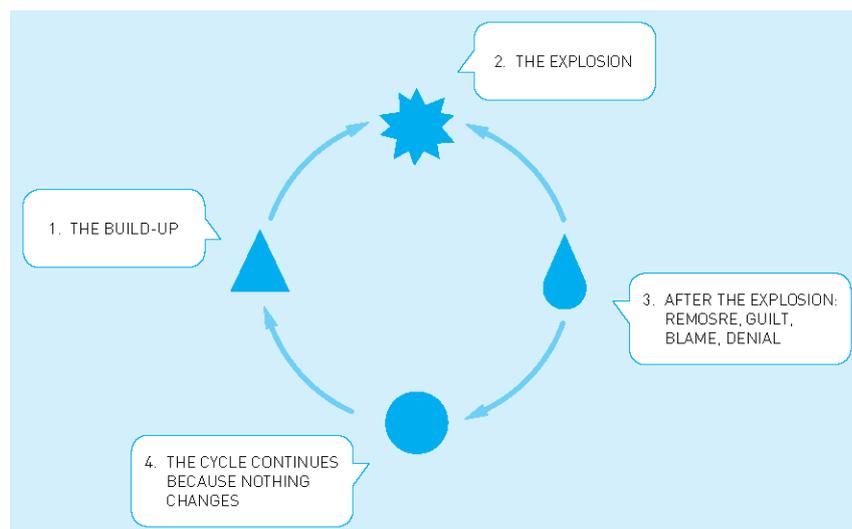
Submission is a gift offer to a husband by the wife.

Husbands ... commanded by God to love his wife in the way that Christ loved the church.

1 Timothy ... the context is the different roles God has given to the different sexes in the context of the church gathering.

Genesis ... a 'suitable helper'

### Confronting domestic violence



**Acknowledge it.**

The Christian and Domestic Violence

**Empathy not sympathy**

**Pray**

**Listen – to their story...**

**Work to understand**

**Make yourself available**

**Use God’s word carefully**

**Know when to act**

**Know where to go for help – see newsletter**

**When is it right to leave?**

**Economic reasons**

... guilt, shame sadness, fear, a commitment to marriage vows, confusion of the right actions and often a strong feeling of helplessness.

**“leave if you do not feel safe”**

**But what about divorce?**

- Deut 24:1 – unfaithfulness
- Exodus 21:10-11 - a failure to provide food, clothing or conjugal rights
- Matthew 19:1
- Jeremiah 3:8 - God is described as a divorcee.
- Hosea 2:2, “she is not my wife and I am not her husband”.
- Isaiah 50:1, “where is your mothers certificate of divorce which I sent her away with”
- Mal 2:16, “God hates divorce” ... he knows the pain that causes it.
- Col 3: 19, “husbands are to love their wives and do not to be harsh with them.”