

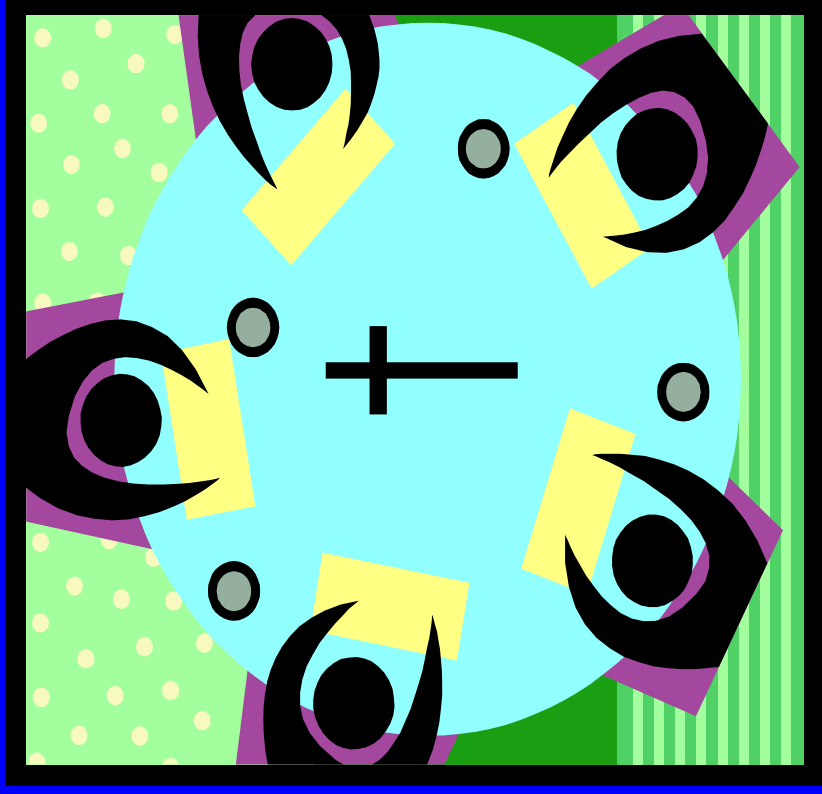
A Religious Response To Family Violence

Dianne Juhl & Marcy Kittleson

Faith Community Action Group

Kitsap County Domestic Violence Task Force

A Christian Women's Gathering



Legal Definition: Domestic Violence

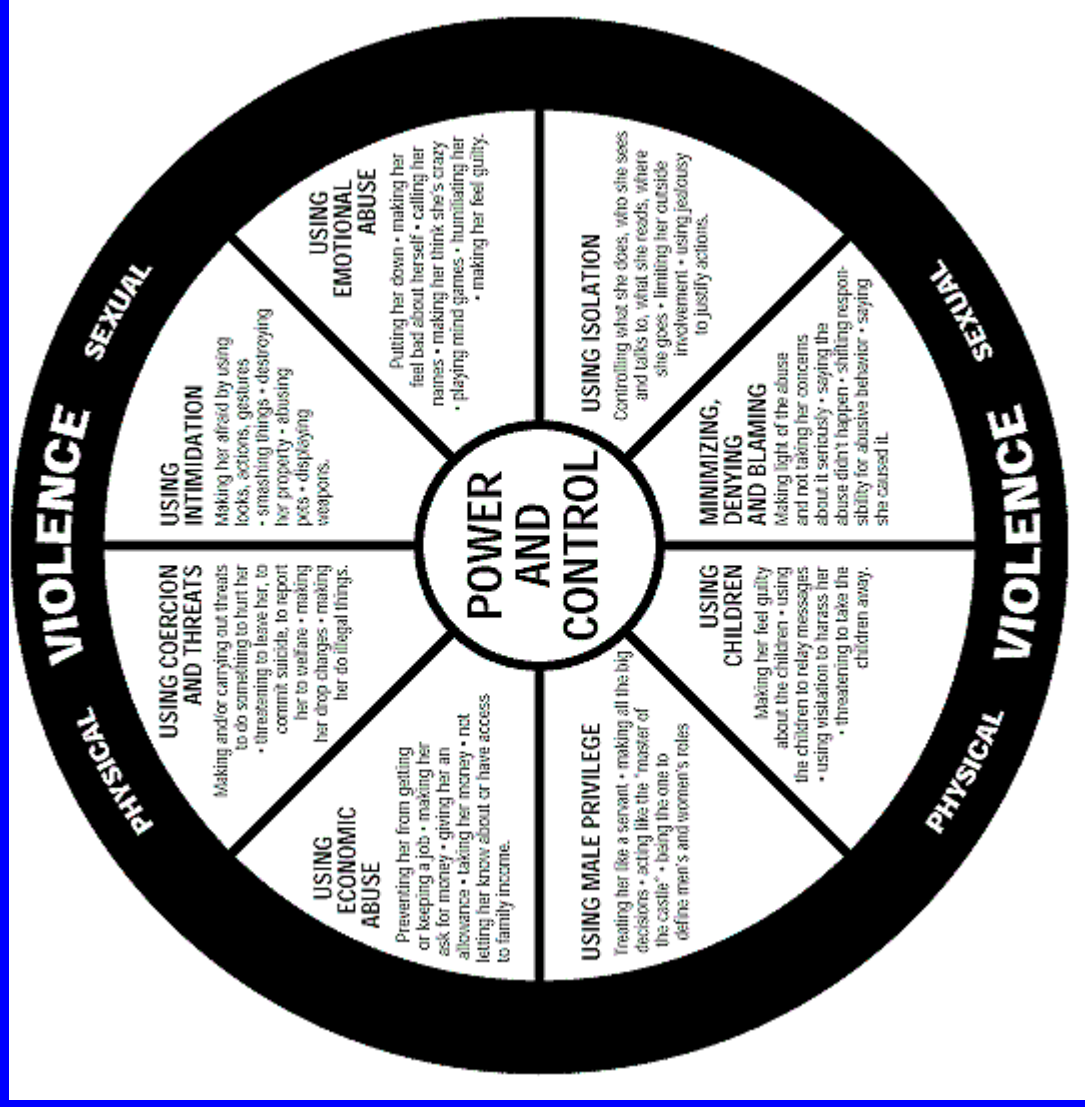
- Physical harm
- Bodily injury
- Assault
- Affliction of fear of imminent harm
- Sexual assault
- Stalking

RCW 26.50.010

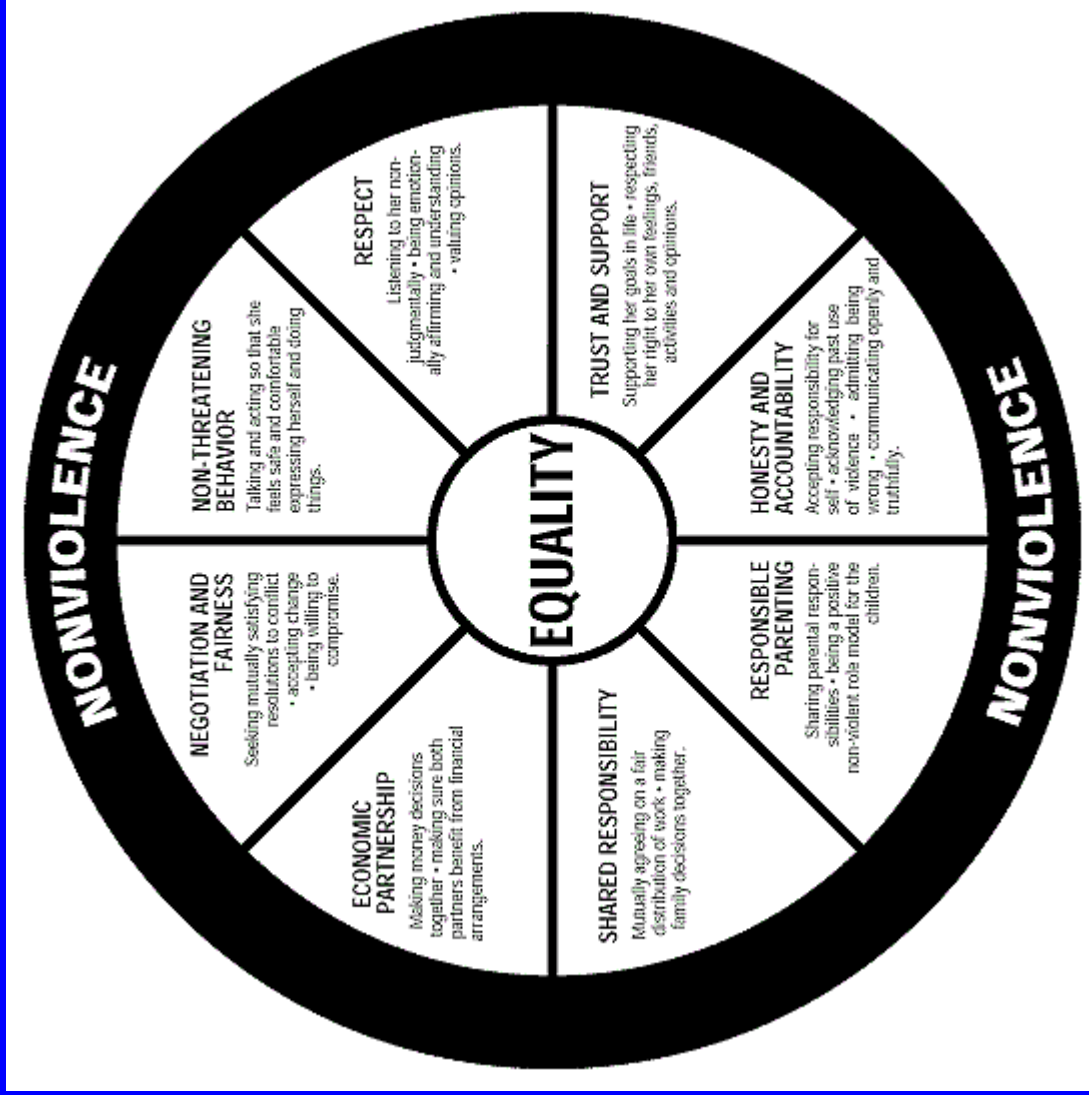
Behavioral Definition of Domestic Violence

- Pattern of controlling, coercive behaviors and assaults
- Used to gain & maintain power over family member(s); to restrict activity & independence
- Escalates in severity & frequency over time (if there is no intervention)

Power & Control Wheel



Equality Wheel



Domestic Violence Facts

- 2000 to-date, 554 DV convictions in Kitsap County District Court (700 in 1999)
- 95% of the perpetrators are men
- 75% (about 388) of the men state they are involved with a local church
- Only 4 men have reported telling their pastor about their arrest for DV

More Domestic Violence Facts

- In 1996, there were 45,584 offenses attributed to DV in Washington state
- In 1996, there were 73 deaths attributed to DV in Washington state
- Domestic violence occurs regardless of occupation, race, age, class, education, or religion
- Majority of victims (95%) are women, but men can be victims of domestic violence, too

A Domestic Violence Crisis Is a Spiritual Crisis

Abused persons and abusers...

- look to clergy for guidance
- turn to congregational members for support
- need to heard and believed

Lack of awareness and training may limit ability to respond appropriately

How Can The Church Respond?

- Increase awareness of domestic violence & community resources
- Become a safe sanctuary, safe place
- Intervene when domestic violence is suspected
- Meet the basic, material needs of families affected by domestic violence