

Hello

Here are some resources you might find useful if you want to refer Christian victim/survivors of domestic abuse to sources of info and support that address domestic abuse from a Christian context.

At [A Cry For Justice](#), the blog I co-lead with Ps Jeff Crippen from Oregon, we are seeking to awaken the evangelical church to domestic violence and abuse in its midst.

We have articles and an extensive list of carefully vetted resources for Christians who want to better respond to domestic abuse, whether they be clergy, laity, survivors or academics.

Jeff Crippen is the author of *A Cry For Justice: How the Evil of Domestic Abuse Hides in Your Church*.

I am a survivor of domestic abuse and the author of [Not Under Bondage: Biblical Divorce for Abuse, Adultery and Desertion](#).*

Since 1999 I've been a volunteer victim-advocate and supporter of other Christian survivors of domestic abuse and have:

- organized a public forum on Christianity and domestic abuse
- addressed secular DV Professionals on how to better understand and help Christian clients they encounter
- addressed an adult Sunday School class of mixed genders, with the male pastor's approval ([audio here](#))
- presented workshops at Flourish, a Women's Ministry Conference held in NSW by the Presbyterian Church of Australia (both male clergy and women's ministry leaders came to my workshops)

See also on YouTube:

- [The Levite's Concubine](#) — in which I explain why the Levite's concubine narrative is a case study of domestic abuse and how perpetrators enlist allies
- [Does God Hate Divorce?](#) — where I am interviewed by Rev Mark Brown

I have heard hundreds if not thousands of stories from Christian victim/survivors of domestic abuse, mostly women but a few men. They frequently recount how the church and Christian counselors did not understand their situation properly, did not fully believe them, and in various ways failed to help them and did not treat them with justice. Some survivors, a minority of those I hear from, say that they are being supported by their churches, but the majority report the opposite. And the bad stories, the ones of injustice from the church, can be truly horrific.

I would be happy to be consulted about domestic abuse and the church, for example:

- how pastors, leaders and members of the church could better respond to domestic abuse when it is disclosed
- things Christians often say that can trigger victims (rubbing salt in their wounds) — and tips on how to choose your words so as not to hurt victims
- the doctrines and teachings which have contributed to enabling perpetrators and burdening victims (headship and submission is by no means the only problematic teaching!)
- how abusers enlist and recruit allies in the church

Feel free to forward this email to anyone who you think would be a potential ally or be interested in these resources.

kind regards

Barbara Roberts
Melbourne

If you want my phone number, please email me.

* **Note:** Some time after writing *Not Under Bondage*, I changed my mind about the scripture for church discipline of abusers. So readers of *Not Under Bondage* should read it in conjunction with my article [Church discipline and church permission for divorce: how my mind has changed.](#)