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Domestic Violence

And the
Church



THE Domestic Violence TERMS *Domestic Abuse*

Persons are related

Intimate Partner Abuse/Spouse Abuse

Child Abuse

Elder Abuse

Family Member Abuse

Kinds of Abuse

Physical

Verbal/Emotional

Financial/Economic

Sexual

Incest

Physical

Cultural/Identity

Religious/Spiritual



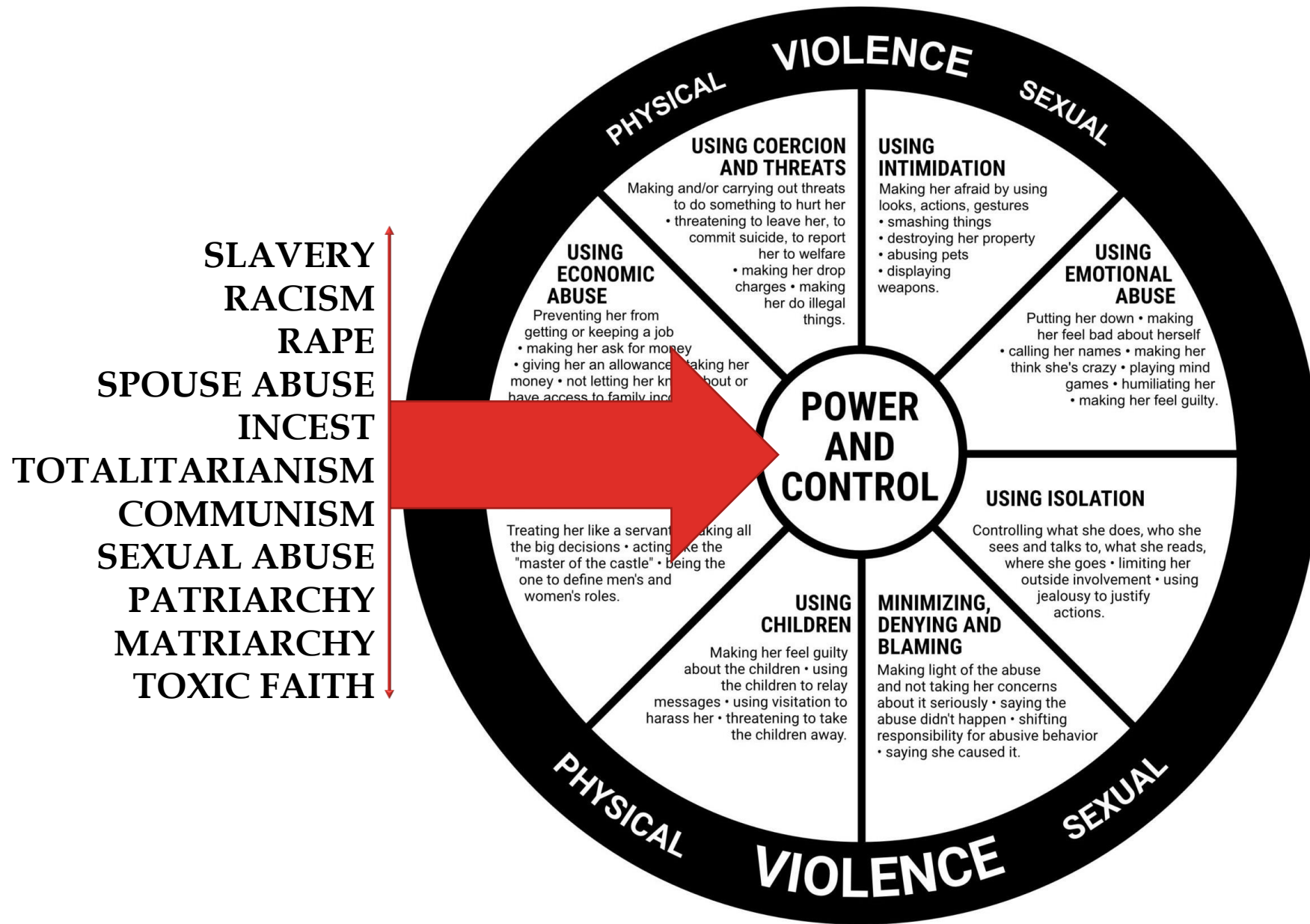
Definition Domestic Violence

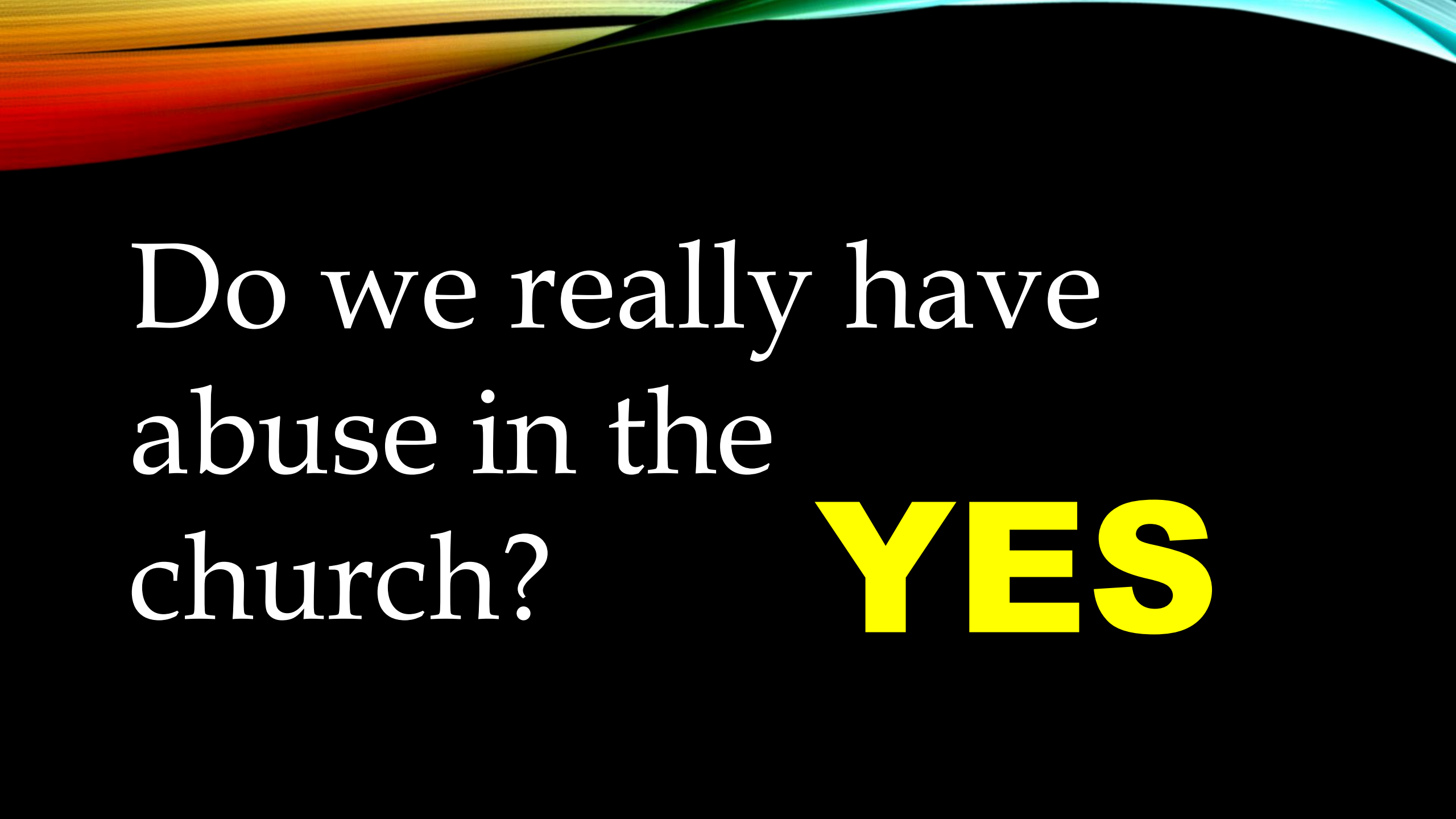
The use or misuse of
power and control
over another person.



Definition Domestic Violence

The use or misuse of
power and control
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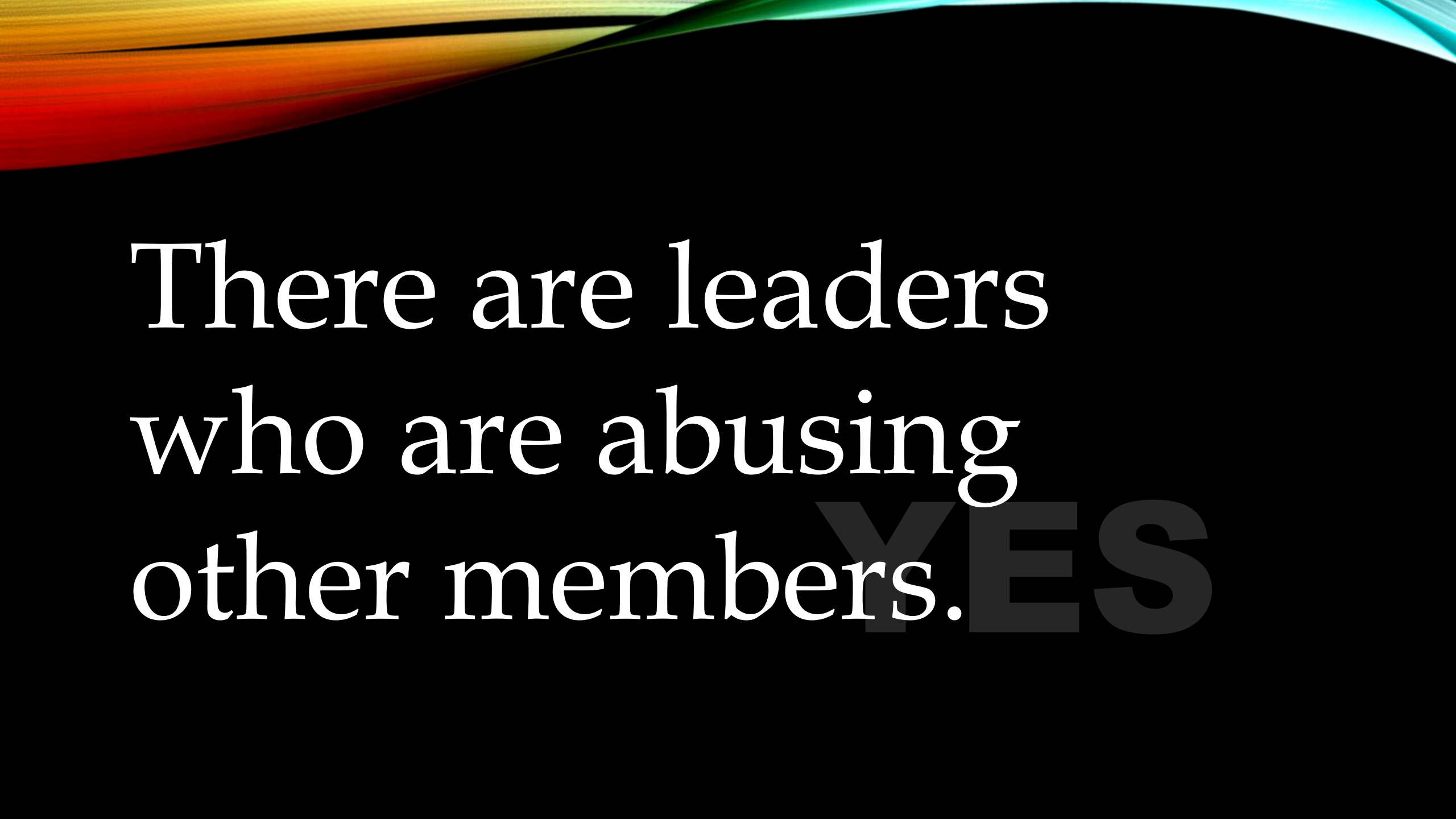
Do we really have
abuse in the
church?

YES



There are members
who are abusing
other members.

YES



There are leaders
who are abusing
other members.

YES

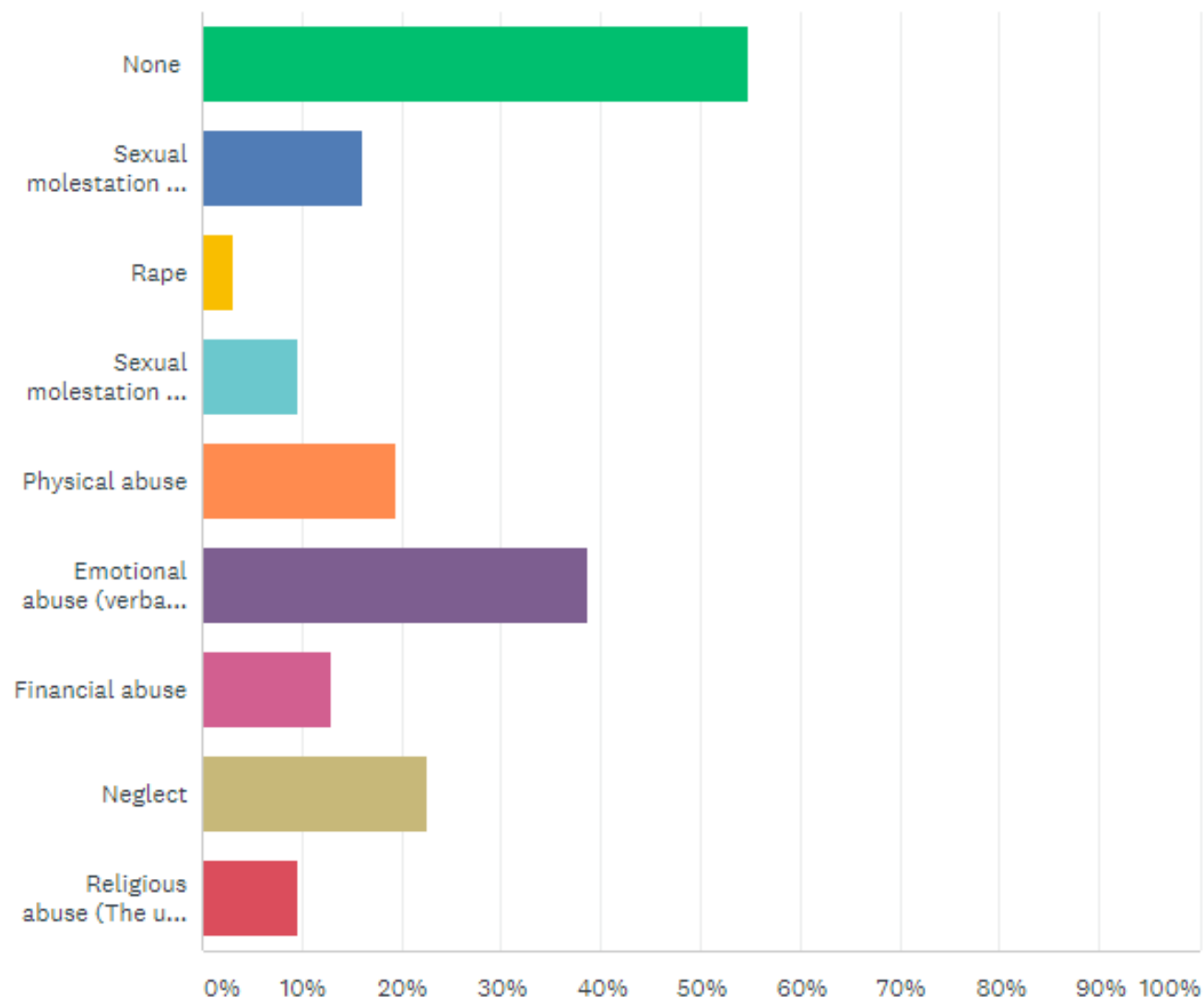


The Church

Pain or Peace

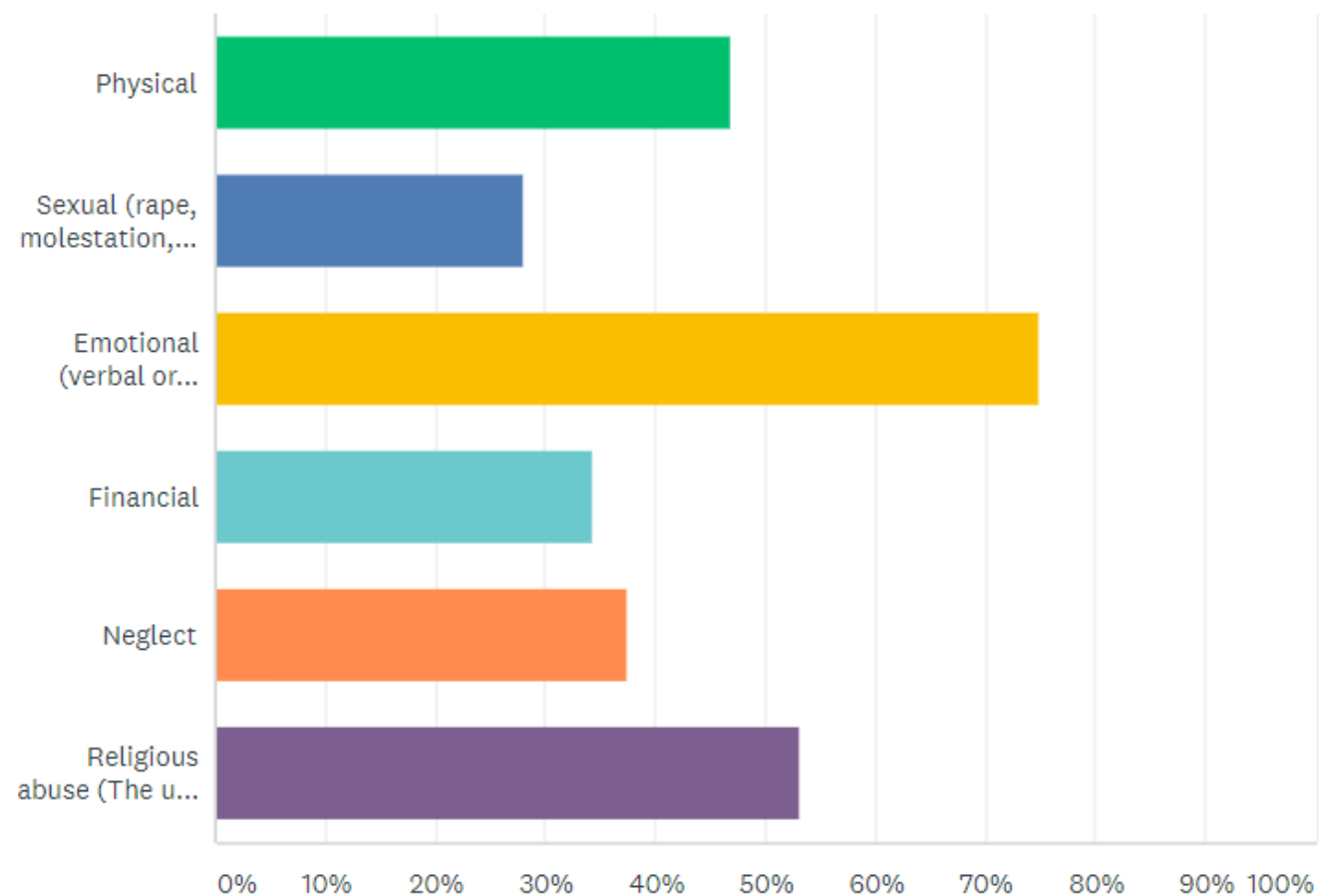
What kind of domestic violence have you experienced?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 0



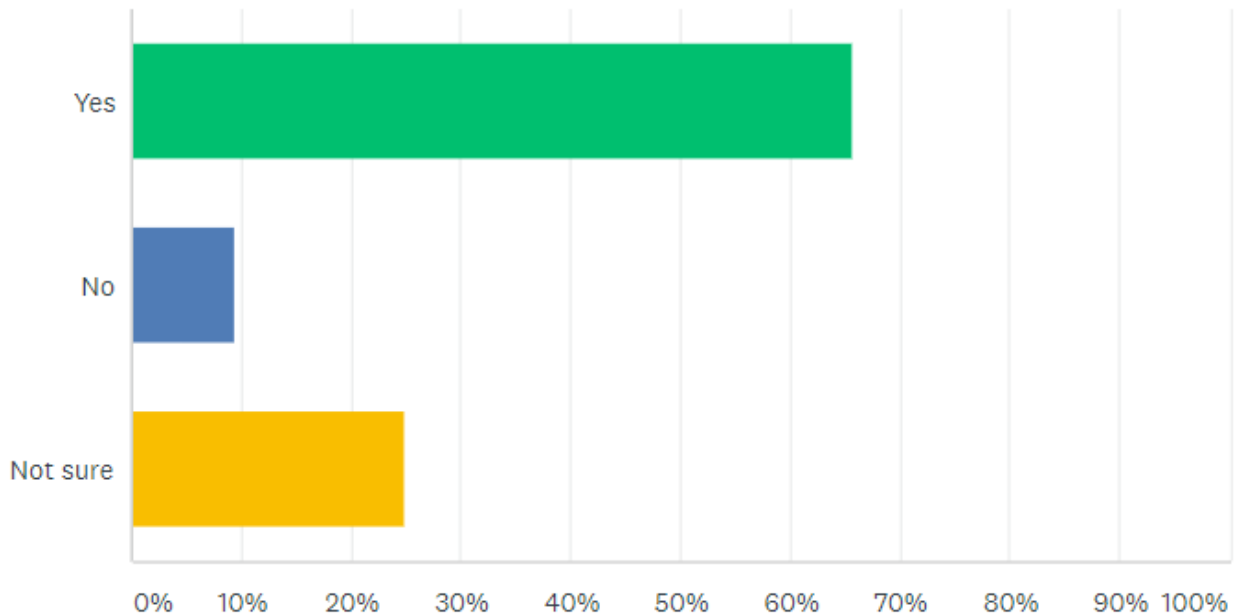
What are the kinds of domestic violence you have witnessed or heard about in your church/conference?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



Do you believe that some people (knowingly or unknowingly) are using Biblical texts to inflict domestic violence on others?

Answered: 32 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	65.63%	21
No	9.38%	3
Not sure	25.00%	8
TOTAL		32

Adventist Review Magazine 2007



René Drumm, Ph.D., is a professor of social work and chairs the Social Work and Family Studies Department at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee

“It is not known whether the problem of spouse abuse among members of the Adventist Church has grown in the last 20 years. But it is known that spouse abuse has been documented as a major problem among Adventists today. I have had the opportunity to be a part of three research endeavors investigating intimate partner violence (spouse abuse) among Adventists. The findings from each study offer evidence that our church leaders and other members must give even more attention to our troubled families. . .

Seventh-day Adventism and the Abuse of Women

Research paper by Esther
Olsen, 2999

Wife Abuse:

To the ignorant, wife abuse is something a wife has coming to her,

To the naive, wife abuse is a social problem which isn't desirable yet is somewhat inevitable.

To the curious, wife abuse is bizarre and occurs only in bad marriages.

To Christians, wife abuse is something that happens to non-Christians,

To most of us, wife abuse is depressing, and we'd rather not think about it. "


Adventist Review Magazine 2020

“Adventists Can Do Much to Confront Domestic Violence, Harvard Professor Says”

“Williams reported that some studies have shown that domestic violence is more common in small conservative religious groups. He pointed out that a random sample of a study from 2006 of 1,431 Adventists in 70 churches in a five-state area in the United States found disturbingly high levels of intimate-partner violence (IPV) among Adventists.”

Abuse Categories and the Percentages of Study Respondents Who Experienced Abusive Actions in an Adult Intimate Relationship⁵

Categories	Survey Items (Experienced at least one of these actions in their lifetime)	Percent
Controlling and demeaning behavior⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Told you what to do and expected obedience. Made big family and household decisions without consulting you. Limited your involvement with others. Monitored your daily activities. Ignored or discounted your accomplishments. Was extremely jealous or accused you of having an affair. Exhibited general contempt for your gender. 	61%
Intimidation and physical violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insulted you, swore at you, or called you names. Destroyed property or cherished possessions. Threatened to hit or throw something at you. Threw, smashed, hit, or kicked something to frighten you. Pushed, grabbed, or shoved you. 	42%
Sexual victimization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used pornographic materials. Used sexually degrading language toward or about you. Used you sexually against your will. Persuaded you to do something sexually that you consider a perversion. Raped you. 	26%
Resource deprivation and leveraging the children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did not let you have access to family/personal income. Restricted your use of the car. Prevented you from getting or keeping a job/education. Deprived you of heat, food, or sleep. Threatened to take the children away from you. Threatened to abuse your children. Abused your children or pets to punish you. 	22%
Potentially lethal actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threatened to use a weapon on you. Used a weapon on you. Beat you up. 	9%



Satan's strategy is to use religion to maintain the pain and the stupidity that divides us.



It's because of this deadly formula.


Rigid traditional family beliefs.

+


Rigid religious beliefs.

=

Abuse



“Religion is harmful if its tenets and application create the conditions for and perpetuate gender-based discrimination.”



“... How did men and women come to believe, accept, and institutionalize gender discrimination?”

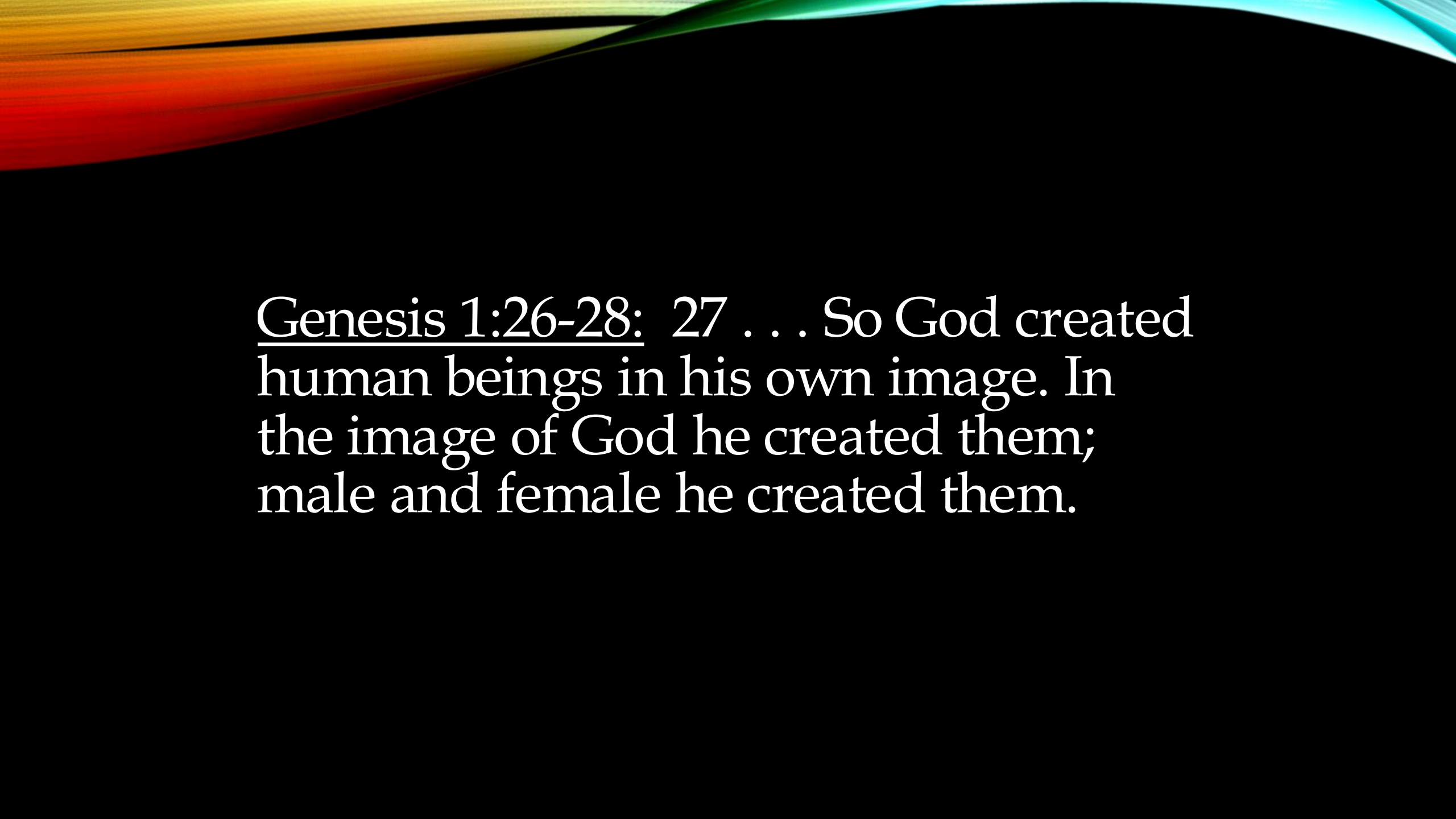


A Misinterpretation of scripture

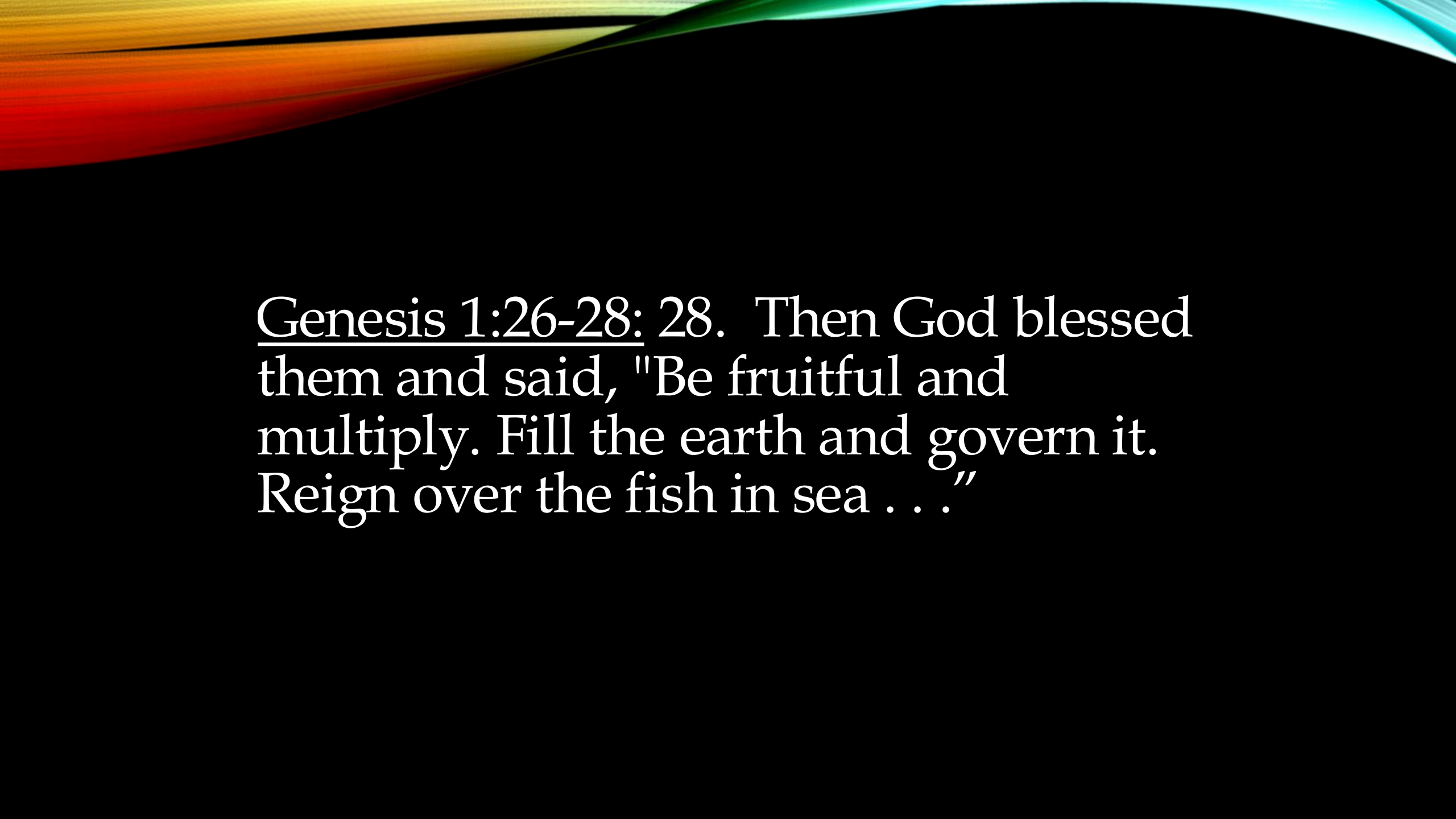
A blending of
Greek philosophy
with religion.

A Misinterpretation of scripture

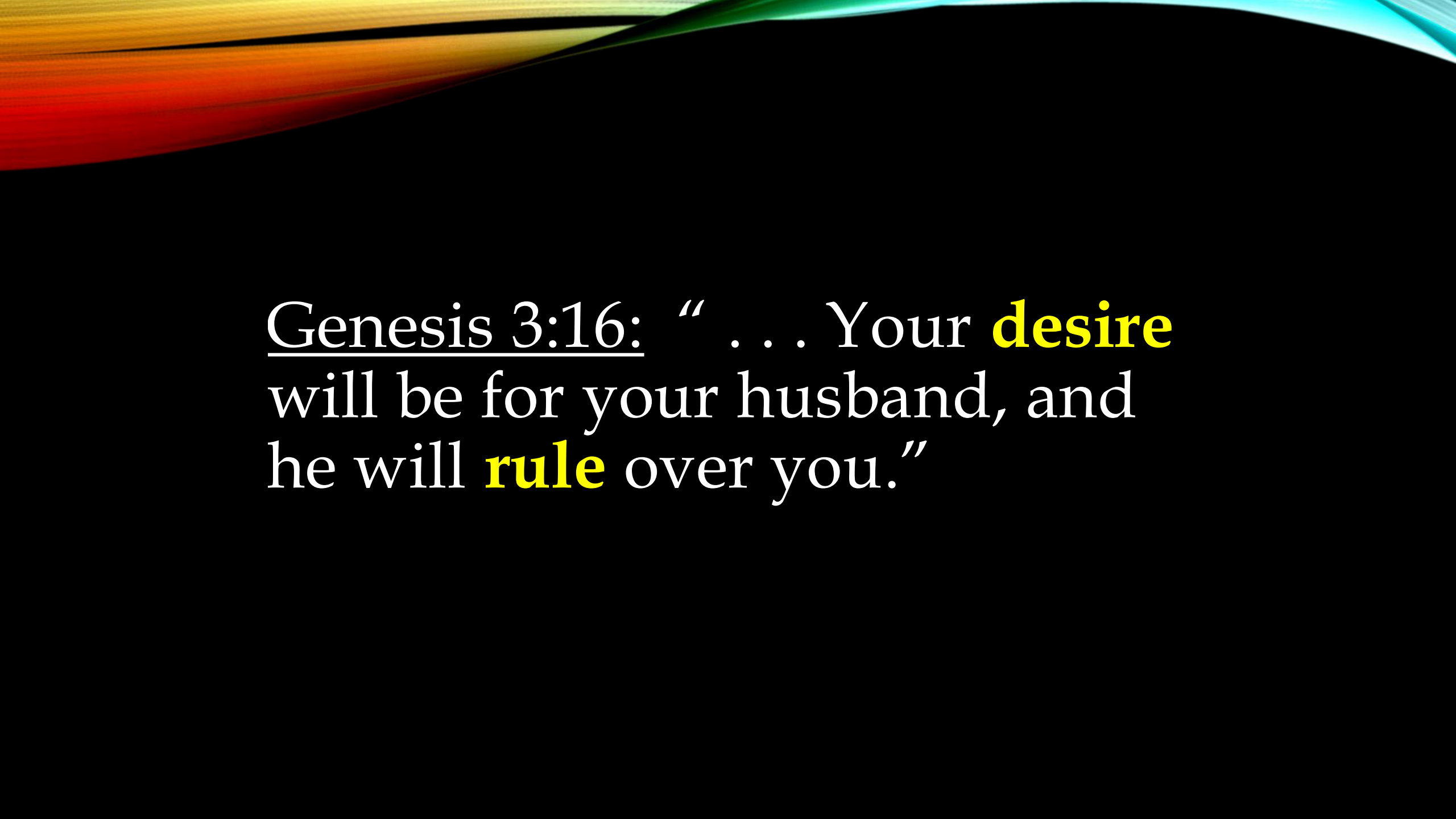
Genesis 1:26-28: 26 Then God said,
"Let us make human beings in our
image, to be like us. They will reign
over the fish in the sea, the birds in the
sky . . .




Genesis 1:26-28: 27 . . . So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.



Genesis 1:26-28: 28. Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in sea . . ."



Genesis 3:16: “ . . . Your **desire**
will be for your husband, and
he will **rule** over you.”



Genesis 3:16, NIV: "To the woman he said, 'I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your **desire** will be for your husband, and he will **rule** over you.'"

A Misinterpretation of scripture

Desire in Hebrew = It is an insatiable desire to control another person.

As a result of sin males and females would seek to control one another.

? ← 1000 years →



Proverbs 31

Before Aristotle
and Greek
philosophy

Ephesians 5

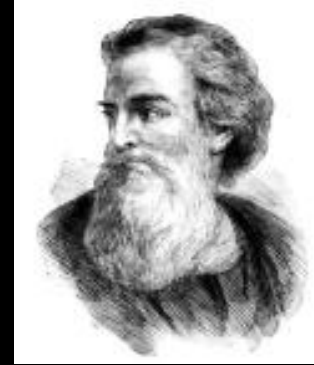
After Aristotle was
born and Greek
philosophy impacted
Christianity.



Aristotle

“Women are
inferior to men in
their ability to
reason.”

Or



Paul

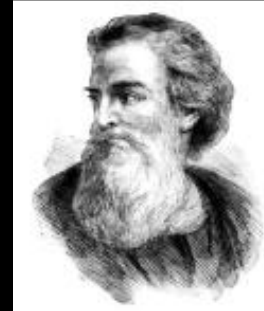
Women are to
learn.
1 Timothy 2:11



Plato

"Being born a woman is a divine punishment, since a woman is halfway between a man and an animal."

Or



Paul

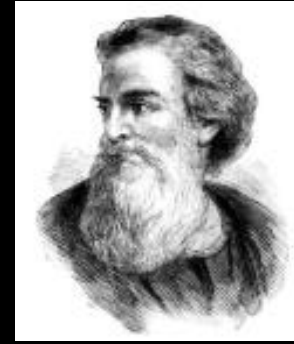
Women, like men,
are created in
God's image



Aristotle

"A female is a
deformed male."

Or



Paul

"Male and female
are one in Christ"
Galatians 3:28



Patsy Simmers, holding ENIAC board
Mrs. Gail Taylor, holding EDVAC board
Mrs. Milly Beck, holding ORDVAC board
Mrs. Norma Stec, holding BRLESC-I board.

A black and white photograph of the ENIAC computer. Two women are working on the right side of the machine. One woman is standing and holding a large sheet of paper, while the other is crouching and connecting cables to the machine's components. The machine is a large, complex of metal cabinets with numerous drawers and doors, some of which are open, revealing internal wiring and components. The scene is set in a room with a dark floor and a light-colored wall in the background.

Two women wiring the right
side of the **ENIAC** with a
new program

Questions

What are some earliest signs of abuse?

Too much too soon
Intrusive and controlling
Isolation
Possessiveness and jealousy

Easy to get angry
How he treats his mother/her father
Alcohol or drug use
Blame others

Questions

Do abusive people
display abusive
behavior in public?

NO

The abuser controls you by keeping it a secret and sometimes threaten to harm you if you tell someone.

Questions

What are some signs
that a person may be a
victim of domestic
violence?

Some signs of physical abuse include:

- Black eyes
- Bruises on the arms
- Busted lips
- Red or purple marks on the neck
- Sprained wrists
- **Some emotional signs:**
 - Agitation, anxiety, or constant apprehension
 - Changes in sleep habits (sleeping too much or not enough)
 - Developing a drug or alcohol problem
 - Extremely apologetic or meek
 - Loss of interest in daily activities
 - Low self-esteem
 - Seeming fearful
 - Symptoms of depression
 - Talking about or attempting suicide



Behavioral signs of abuse:

- Becomes reserved and distant
- Begins isolating themselves by cutting off contacts with friends and family members
- Cancels appointments or meetings with you at the last minute
- Drops out of activities they would usually enjoy
- Exhibits excessive privacy concerning their personal life or the person with whom they're in a relationship
- Is often late to work or other appointments

Questions

Why would an abused wife stay?

- They cannot leave. The family or church members do not believe their story.
- Shame.
- Some women believe children need their fathers.
- Women genuinely love their husbands and hope they will change.
- Women are told if they change their behavior, the abuse will stop.
- They are raised to believe divorce is wrong and marriage should be kept intact at all costs.
- Some women's identity is dependent on their husbands'. They were taught they need a man to be "whole."

Questions

Why would an abused husband stay?

Denial: He may feel her abuse is caused by her emotional personality, PMS, or other hormone fluctuations. He decides to ignore her abuse because he loves her and wants the relationship to continue.

Love: In spite of the abuse, he may find enough good in the relationship to "make up" for the abuse. Often men do not see the pain and problems in marriage as easily as wives do. Men are usually quicker to forgive and forget.

Financial: He may stay, not because he wouldn't be able to support himself, but because of the prospect of paying child support and alimony or dividing the marital assets. He may choose to stay until the children are grown and then leave.

Questions

Why would an abused husband stay?

Fear: While a man may stay out of fear, it is more often fear of what she will do to herself, rather than what she might do to him. Abusive women often threaten suicide if her partner leaves. Additionally, she may have threatened to make trouble for him at his job.

Insulation: It may be easier for a man to avoid or ignore abusive incidents if he has a demanding job, or reasons to be away from home regularly.

He Needs Her: Most men are raised to depend on women to "take care of them." These women would keep their clothes clean and cook their food. In addition, they need the women to satisfy their sexual needs. Some men have low self esteem, made worse by an abusive wife. To avoid sharing their pain and answering many questions, they stay and "rough it out."



Questions

How can you help someone who is being abused?

- Listen
- Believe the victim
- Do not judge or accuse
- Be a friend
- Help the victim find resources for help
- Be confidential



Questions

How can the victim of abuse safely find help?

- Call a trusted, trained professional
- Call the Crisis Center -- 328-0922
- Call the police

Questions

What if the abuser is a police officer?

- Call the Crisis Center – 328-0922
- Call a trusted friend.
- Call an officer or a higher level you can trust.
- Do not pick a fight.

Questions

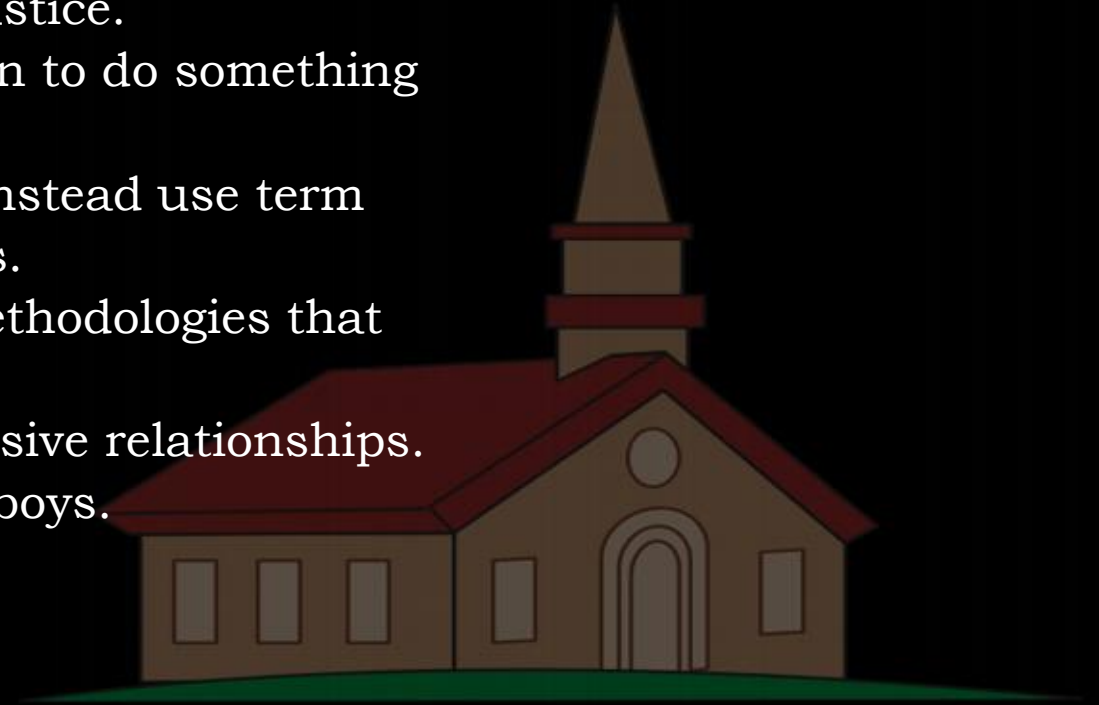
What can victims do?

- Prepare an urgent get-away bag.
- Secure all important documents.
- Do not leave your purse casually hanging around.
- Make extra copies of the house and car keys.

What can the
church do?



1. Speak out against all forms of abuse and injustice.
2. Admit that there is domestic violence and plan to do something about it.
3. Stop focusing on the headship of the male. Instead use term like partnership, companionship and oneness.
4. Be willing to examine its own teachings or methodologies that treat women and second-class citizens.
5. Get training how to respond to women in abusive relationships.
6. Examine ways how to help abusive men and boys.
7. Stop harboring the abuser.





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Domestic Violence

And the
Church



www.soencouragement.org

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The Jasmine is Still Sweet-- Responding emotionally to COVID19

It was in the middle of March. The news about COVID-19 in The Bahamas was in our ears. But many of us did not really grasp at that time what this was all about. The 24-hour curfew was not in place yet. On March 17 and 18, Annick and I had to make a previously planned one-day trip to our daughter in Brandon, Florida, to get some things she had for us. We were nervous. We took alcohol-soaked napkins, hand sanitizers and masks. We sanitized our seat in the airports and airplanes. We got back the following day with a sign of relief. Since then, our country has been shaken to the core with COVID19. Some have died, bringing pain and disbelief to families. Many more have been infected with COVID19 and many others suspected of having the diseases. We are experiencing something we have never had before or never will again in our lifetime. Although the much-needed restrictions are gradually being lifted, the scare of COVID19 is exposing our fears, frets, anxiety, and worry. -- [Read the article.](#)

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