

Avoiding Double Abuse

Jesus' Example for Protecting the Vulnerable



What is Double Abuse?



Double Abuse is...

- when family, church, or culture refuses to recognize primary abuse
 - diminish
 - deny
 - disregard
 - dismiss
- when victim seeks help and receives biased, harmful, uneducated advice



Why is Double Abuse so Damaging?



Double Abuse Causes Damage

- often leaves a stronger impact than the original abuse
- teaches victims that no one will defend or protect them
- directly affects the victim's image of God's character

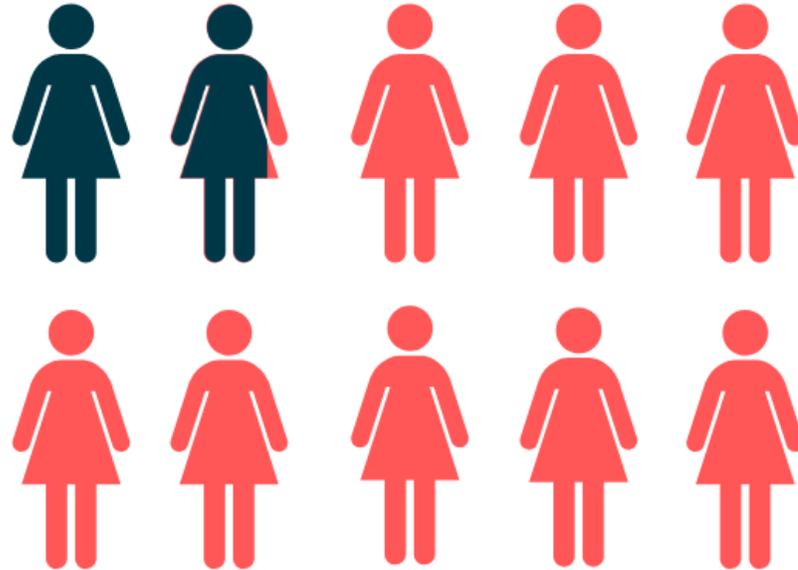


Is Double Abuse Common?



Double Abuse in Church

A survey of 146 female survivors of spousal abuse in the church, revealed these statistics:



18%

Were believed and supported by their pastor or church leaders.

Source: Sarah McDugal, WILD



Double Abuse in Church

A survey of 146 female survivors of spousal abuse in the church, revealed these statistics:



6%

**Were believed BUT
their trauma was
compounded due to
lack of training on
their pastor's part.**

Source: Sarah McDugal, WILD

Double Abuse in Church

A survey of 146 female survivors of spousal abuse in the church, revealed these statistics:



11%

Were believed but received no support from their pastor or church leaders.

Source: Sarah McDugal, WILD

Double Abuse in Church

A survey of 146 female survivors of spousal abuse in the church, revealed these statistics:



65%

**Were dismissed,
doubted, ignored, &
denied help by their
pastor & leaders.**

Source: Sarah McDugal, WILD

It's not just about sexual misconduct, either.



Leaders,
there is no better time to educate
yourself on abuse than right NOW.



How Can Church Leaders Avoid Double Abuse?



Ways to Avoid Causing Double Abuse

- listen to hard stories without bias
- consider that just because someone hasn't abused you, doesn't mean they aren't abusive to others
- be more concerned with representing God's character than protecting the institution
- let God protect His own reputation, you protect the vulnerable



Do the laundry.

Sarah McDugal



Don't be Achan's enabler.

Joshua 7



Responding to Abuse is an Evangelistic Imperative



Christianity Today

May 21, 2019

“Ten percent of Protestant churchgoers under 35 have previously left a church because they felt sexual misconduct was not taken seriously.”

- *Dr Justin Holcomb*

RESEARCH

1 in 10 Young Protestants Have Left a Church Over Abuse

As the generation most likely to report experiencing misconduct and least likely to tolerate it, Christians under 35 stand to shape how congregations respond.

KATE SHELLNUTT | MAY 21, 2019 10:00 AM



Seventh-day
Adventist Church

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Double Abuse:

- drives people out of the church
- misrepresents God's heart for the wounded
- shelters the wolves instead of defending the sheep
- creates unnecessary legal risk from repeat offenders



Abuse Response is Complex

- a reporting victim is 90%+ likely to be telling the truth
- cultivate self-doubt on your ability to discern who is lying
- admit lack of trauma training and rely on professionals to help
- don't reinvent the wheel



Abuse Response Resources

NAD, ARM, and more



Roadmap for Responding to Abuse

- E-87 Sexual Ethics and Misconduct Policy
 - NAD Working Policy 2015-2016
 - standard of care for all levels of organization
- Lake Union implementation of E-87 “Project Safe Church”
 - projectsafechurch.org



Roadmap for Responding to Abuse

- Adventist Risk Management
 - Child Protection Plans
 - Implementation Guides
 - Sex Offender Participation Agreements
 - adventistrisk.org/en-us/safety-resources/church
- The MEND Project - resources on double abuse
 - themendproject.com



For Info on E-87 Policy Implementation in Your Area, Contact Your Conference

Call your Executive Secretary or Human Resources department.



How Do We Discern Truth Without Double Abuse?



Do what Jesus did...

- Listen
 - Empathize
 - Support
 - Believe
- Report to law enforcement
 - Cooperate with investigations
 - Recognize importance of fact-finding



Do what Jesus did...

- Focus on safety of the victim.
 - Not reconciliation
 - Not restoration
 - Not protecting the perpetrator

Safety.



The time has come...

