

SUPPLEMENT 09

Profile of a Victim

A victim is any oppressed individual who is subject to abuse. For the purposes of this document, we will refer to the victim with a female pronoun, understanding that this could apply to men as well.

The statistics on domestic abuse are staggering, and sadly, do not change within the context of the church. According to the National Center for Prevention and Control's Division of Violence Prevention, **1 IN 4 WOMEN** experience severe physical violence from an intimate partner. While both men and women experience domestic violence, **85% ARE WOMEN.**

RESEARCH SHOWS THAT ONLY 3-9% OF ABUSE REPORTS ARE FALSE.

"Bear in mind that false accusations are incredibly rare, and if you fail to heed this warning, you will not only do incredible damage to the survivor, but may in fact facilitate the abuse of others yet unharmed."

RACHEL DENHOLLANDER

- A victim is often disoriented, fearful and shamed.
- A victim has endured significant trauma and is often facing extreme self-doubt.
- A victim is terrified that the pastor won't believe her.
- Often, a victim discloses very little at first to determine if the pastor is a "safe person."
- A victim can seem mentally unstable.

