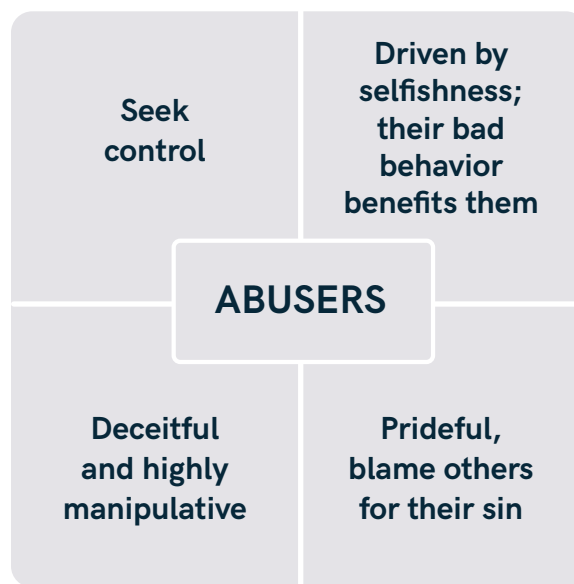


SUPPLEMENT 10

Profile of an Abuser

In a church context, ***WE OFTEN KNOW THE ACCUSED ABUSER***. It is essential to know that abusers are deceptive and master manipulators. Often their own spouses fail to recognize that what is being done to them is abuse. We cannot rely on outward appearances or what we think we know about someone.



(Chart and information on abusers adapted from Darby Strickland's *Is It Abuse?*).

Psalm 10:2-6 explains the heart of the abuser:

*"In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak,
who are caught in the schemes he devises.
He boasts about the cravings of his heart;
he blesses the greedy and reviles the Lord.
In his pride the wicked man does not seek him;
in all his thoughts there is no room for God.
His ways are always prosperous;
your laws are rejected by[b] him;
he sneers at all his enemies.
He says to himself, "Nothing will ever shake me."
He swears, "No one will ever do me harm."*



(Power and Control Wheel provided by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services).

A SPECIAL NOTE ON ABUSERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

- Statistics show that abusers are often well-liked and more often believed than the victim.
- Church support and pastoral care often rally around the abuser .
- An abuser is often an exemplary member.
- If abuser is married, he is often working hard to reconcile his marriage while the victim may be resisting efforts towards restoration.
- Many times, the abuser immediately and sorrowfully repents.
- Church leaders and/or the church body may prematurely accept the abuser's repentance without seeing its fruits.

NOTE: It is important to remember NOT to prioritize reconciliation over the well-being of the victim.

RED AND YELLOW FLAGS INDICATING ABUSE:

Abuse tactics and offenses are varied and can take many different forms and degrees of severity. The following list of offenses is meant to serve as a "Red or Yellow Flag" of potential abuse. The list is thorough but not exhaustive ("*Camper Safety*," Oklahoma Baptists. Accessed September 1, 2022. <https://www.oklahomabaptists.org/youth/falls-creek/camper-safety/>).

RED FLAG OFFENSES

- Providing alcohol/tobacco/drugs/pornography to a minor
- Voyeurism (peeping Tom)
- Contributing to the delinquency of a minor
- Criminal solicitation of a minor
- Public Indecency
- Exhibitionism (flashing)
- Assault
- Sexual Assault (or any crime that is sexual in nature)
- Homicide
- False Imprisonment
- Kidnapping
- Injury to a child/elderly individual/disabled individual
- Abandoning or endangering a child
- Leaving a child in a vehicle
- Matters related to interference with child custody
- Failure to stop or report the aggravated sexual assault of a child

YELLOW FLAG OFFENSES

Any of the following felony or misdemeanor offenses within the last 10 years.

- Driving Under the Influence or Driving While Intoxicated
- Possession/Distribution of a Controlled Substance
- Making a firearm accessible to a child
- Theft, including identity theft