



Abuse (2 SAMUEL 13:1-21)
Taboo sermon series
By Pastor David Hillis, 07.21.19

BIG IDEA: Whenever we know or suspect abuse is going on, doing nothing is never a good option. Silence never stops abuse.

1. Abuse is around us in all kinds of forms every day: physical abuse, emotional, and sexual abuse.
2. Trauma, abuse attacks every *part* of a person. It damages not just their bodies, but their very souls.
3. Sexual abuse and the abuse of power has the power to break and destroy even *confident, grown men*, shaming as well as *scaring* them into silence.
4. Abuse is able to continue unchecked for long periods because victims lose a lot, including their voice!
5. Whenever we *suspect* something, or someone shares something with us that even might seem *sketchy* or *far-fetched*, we have to act.
6. We must *encourage a victim* to speak up and not worry about *appearances* before justice. This how abuse at times can even be perpetuated within families, the very place where we *should be* the most safe.
7. It can be so damaging, when someone tries to confide in us or find safety in us, for us to encourage them to keep it quiet. It can cause the victim to be afraid to trust anyone again, and to sometimes *live* in the abuse.
8. Whether we suspect something or someone tries to confide in us, we can't discount them or minimize what they are saying.
9. With adults, we must affirm them and help them tell their story to someone who *can* help. It's not our responsibility to figure out first if it's true or not,
10. **If it is a minor, if there is even a reasonable *suspicion*, we must report it. *Period.***
11. Silence solves nothing; in fact, silence is deadly.
12. Abuse is a terrible tragedy in the lives it affects. It can cause deep-seated damage and sometimes continues on in that victim's life or in the lives of others for years, for decades, if nothing is done.

NEXT STEP: Do you know someone who has been abused, or you suspect might be in an abusive relationship? How can you best love them today? What do you want to ask for from God?

FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

1. This week in *TABOO* Pastor Dave talked about the reality of abuse in our world today, and how as Christ followers we are to respond to suspicions of it. Look back through the sermon notes above and our key passage today from [2 Samuel 13](#). Do you see anything in the story that was handled right? What all was not? What do you think were the motivations behind why each person acted as they did? What would you do?
2. Take a closer look at Amnon in this story. How would you describe the “love” that Amnon thinks he has for Tamar? How would you describe that love, and what was lacking? Why does his lust for Tamar turn to hatred and a desire to banish her? How do you see this reflected in our culture today?
3. In [Luke 4:14-30](#), Jesus declares to the world at the start of his public ministry that His call was to help set free those who are oppressed. Oppression isn’t just spiritual, it can also be physical, emotional, and more. What kinds of oppressed people do you see Jesus ministering to? What pockets of people in our culture today tend to be the most oppressed, and why? What does God expect of us? What does [Jeremiah 21:12](#) have to say about that?
4. Unfortunately, Tamar’s story isn’t a unique one in Scripture. To read more, see Hagar’s story in [Genesis 16:1-16; 21:8-21](#); Dinah’s in [Genesis 34](#); David’s in [1 Samuel 19-27](#); and that of an unnamed woman in [Judges 19-20](#). What did you realize or learn from reading these stories?
5. In this week’s supplemental resources, read the true story of one woman, who was trapped in part by assuming that submitting to her husband and his abuse was what God expected of her. Read [Ephesians 5:21-33](#), and reflect on what God expects of men and of women, and come back next week as women’s roles in ministry and the home are looked at from a comprehensive Biblical perspective. How do you think God wants women’s roles to be defined today? How do well-intentioned people sometimes miss it? Share your thoughts with Pastor Dave this week!

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- Impact of #MeToo, one year later. 19 million tweets later, what has #MeToo accomplished? Read an [article in USA Today](#) and another [article in Bloomberg](#).
- Southern Baptists take a decisive stand against abuse. Read more from this sampling of articles:
 - [Two Texas newspapers reveal abuse cases of over 380 church leaders](#) in Southern Baptist churches over 20 years.
 - [The impact a long history of sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic Church has had](#) on American Christianity, according to Pew Research.
 - According to this [New York Times article](#), evangelical churches have long distanced themselves from the sexual abuse crisis that has consumed the Catholic Church, but they cannot anymore.
 - [Report shows how churches failed to care](#) about abuse.
 - Learn how [10 women helped change the Southern Baptist response](#) to abuse.
 - [Southern Baptists vote to name abuse as grounds for expelling churches](#) in the future from their denomination.
- Why do some stay stuck in domestic violence at home? Read [“A Broken Trust: Talking about the epidemic of domestic violence”](#) in *The Covenant Companion*.
- How do we respond to the Tamars of our world today? Read [“When There Is No Justice”](#) in *Sojourners*.
 - 10 ways men can respond, according to an [Evangelical Covenant Church article](#).

NEXT WEEK: TABOO topic: **WOMEN’S ROLES**