



**FREEDOM
FROM ABUSE**

A dark, high-contrast photograph of a woman's profile, facing right. Her hand is resting on her forehead. The image is overlaid with a large, solid black circle that covers most of the frame. The background is a dark, textured surface. There are orange vertical bars on the left and right edges of the image.

The woman with a spirit of infirmity

Luke 13:11

And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise *herself* up.



Luke 13:12

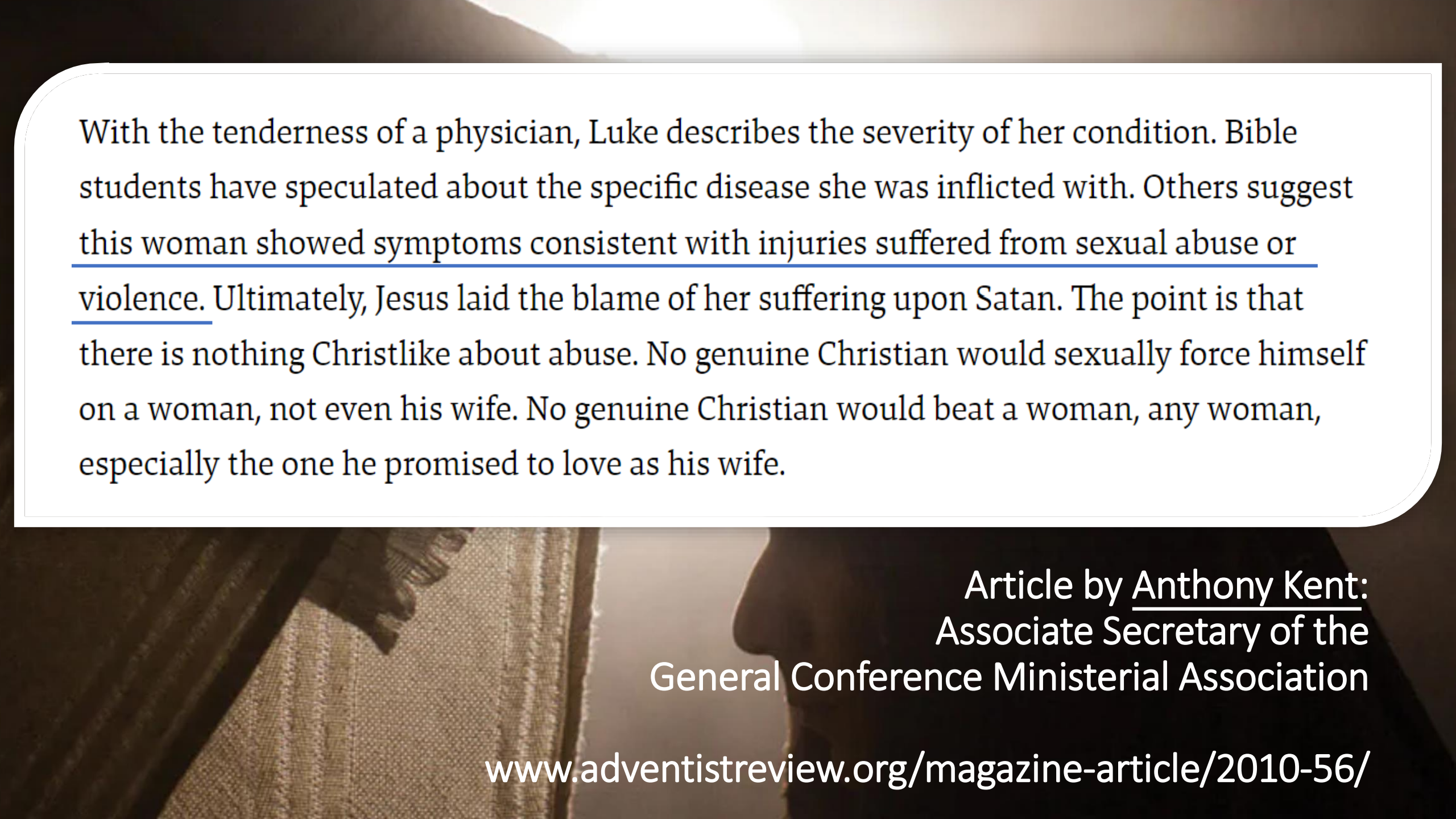
But when Jesus saw her, He called *her* to *Him* and said to her, “Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.”



Luke 13:13

And He laid *His* hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.





With the tenderness of a physician, Luke describes the severity of her condition. Bible students have speculated about the specific disease she was inflicted with. Others suggest this woman showed symptoms consistent with injuries suffered from sexual abuse or violence. Ultimately, Jesus laid the blame of her suffering upon Satan. The point is that there is nothing Christlike about abuse. No genuine Christian would sexually force himself on a woman, not even his wife. No genuine Christian would beat a woman, any woman, especially the one he promised to love as his wife.

Article by Anthony Kent:
Associate Secretary of the
General Conference Ministerial Association

www.adventistreview.org/magazine-article/2010-56/

Luke 13:14

But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, “There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day.”

Luke 13:15

The Lord then answered him and said, “Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead *it* away to water it?”

Luke 13:16

So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?”



Luke 13:17

And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.



**1. WHY IS THIS SUBJECT
IMPORTANT?**

THE NUMBERS

- **1 in 4 adults report having been physically abused as children.**

THE NUMBERS

- 1 in 4 adults report having been physically abused as children.
- **1 in 5 women reports having been sexually abused as a child.**

THE NUMBERS

- 1 in 4 adults report having been physically abused as children.
- 1 in 5 women reports having been sexually abused as a child.
- **1 in 3 women has been a victim of physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner at some point in her lifetime.²**

THE NUMBERS

- **1 in 17 older adults reported abuse in the past month.**

THE NUMBERS

- 1 in 17 older adults reported abuse in the past month.
- **Women report higher rates of lifetime exposure to rape, physical violence, and stalking than do men.³**

THE NUMBERS

- 1 in 17 older adults reported abuse in the past month.
- Women report higher rates of lifetime exposure to rape, physical violence, and stalking than do men.³
- **More than 1 in 3 women and 1 in 12 men have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime.**⁴

THE NUMBERS

- **In one study among Adventists, 67% of adult participants stated they had at least one of the following types of child abuse (physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, neglect, witnessing abuse among parents).⁵**

enditnow[®]

Adventists Say **No** *to Violence*

www.enditnow.org

2. WHAT IS ABUSE?



Abuse happens when an individual uses **power** or **influence** to take advantage of a **vulnerable individual**.

3. WHO CAN BE A TARGET OF ABUSE?



David Koresh, religious manipulation, and abuse

“According to Kiri Jewell, whose mother Sherri was one of Koresh’s wives before she herself became a “bride” at just 10 years old, Koresh had as many as 20 wives by the time he died on April 19, 1993, per ABC News, though he was only legally married to one woman.”

<https://stylecaster.com/entertainment/tv-movies/1363540/david-koresh-wives/>

Raid on Waco Texas Compound



4. WHY DO PEOPLE ABUSE?

ABUSE IS ABOUT
CONTROL





**5. WHAT IS THE IMPACT
OF ABUSE?**



IMPACT OF ABUSE

All types of childhood abuse have the potential to damage the developing brain of a child, predisposing them to life-long mental and physical health concerns, and increasing the risks for all kinds of problems—social, emotional, behavioral, and academic.

IMPACTING FACTORS

The impact of abuse on someone is determined to a large degree by the **level of emotional and social stability** in the life of the victim prior to the abuse.





IMPACTING FACTORS

The impact of abuse is also determined by the **response of adults or those in positions of authority or influence** when the abuse is reported.

A close-up photograph of a person's open palm, held out towards the camera. The words "WE HELP" are written in bold, black, capital letters across the palm. The person is wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green grass and a blue sky.

WE
HELP

RESPONSE MATTERS!

Long-term impact of abuse depends less on the type and severity of the abuse than it does on the level of support that one receives in the aftermath of the abuse.



IMPACT OF ABUSE

Sexual abuse is particularly damaging to the very **core** of who a person is.

IMPACT OF ABUSE

When abuse is perpetrated by a **Christian**, the damage is all the greater because of the inherent layer of spiritual abuse that accompanies it.



Genesis 50:20

But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive.



**6. I'M JUST A KID,
WHAT CAN I DO?**

I'M JUST A KID WHAT CAN I DO?

- Talk to someone you trust like a parent, teacher, pastor etc...
- Know you will not be in trouble and it's not your fault.



**7. WHAT ABOUT
FORGIVING AN ABUSER?**

Luke 23:34

**Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them,
for they do not know what they do.”**



FORGIVENESS IS

- Releasing yourself from anger, bitterness, and resentment that someone who has wronged you has caused.

FORGIVENESS IS NOT

- Pretending nothing happened.
- Making excuses.
- Living in abuse because the abuser's salvation relies on you converting them.
- Allowing an abuser to continue to abuse you and/or others.

8. WHAT CAN I DO?



GET HELP!

You cannot do this on your own and you cannot fix a broken person, that is God's job.



PAY ATTENTION

- If you ever can **support a victim**, please do.
- If you ever can **hold an offender accountable**, please do.

A hand is shown from the bottom left, pointing upwards with the index finger. A glowing, semi-transparent rectangular box is centered over the hand, containing the text 'TAKE ACTION' in a bold, dark blue font. The background is a blurred blue and green bokeh with a horizontal light flare across the middle.

**TAKE
ACTION**

**SAFETY AND
ACTION PLAN**

**9. NOW WHAT?
ARE THERE RESOURCES?**



BUREAU OF POLICE

« Police Home



Domestic Violence Resource Guide

[Download the Domestic Violence Resource Guide](#)



Domestic Violence Unit

DEPARTMENT MENU

Police Links ▼

- Become An Officer
- File a Police Report
- Silent Complaint Form
- Public Submission of Tips Form
- Police Branches
- Special Deployment Division (SDD)
- Compliment an Officer
- Police Home
- Public Safety Home



About Police ▼

Community Engagement Office ▼

Police Branches ▼

• **Pittsburgh Domestic Violence Unit:**
***(412) 323-7250**

• **Women's Center & Shelter of Greater
Pittsburgh (WC&S):**
***(412) 687-8005**
***wcspittsburgh.org**

[https://pittsburghpa.gov/police/domestic-
violence-resource-guide](https://pittsburghpa.gov/police/domestic-violence-resource-guide)

RUSafe App (For IOS and Android)

The RUSafe app is a free interactive app that assesses the potential for domestic violence and harm in a dangerous relationship.

By answering a few simple questions about the relationship, RUSafe helps you understand possible threats you may face, while simultaneously connecting you with nearby emergency shelters and domestic violence hotlines.



National Domestic Violence Hotline

- **800-799-7233**
- **SMS: Text START to 88788**
- **www.thehotline.org**



Identify Abuse

Get Help

Heal

DV Professionals

About

Donate

Login

Exit Site

Language ▾

Enter your zip or city 📍 Near me

Search

24/7 Hotline

Emergency Shelter

[Home](#) / [Domestic Violence](#) / [Pennsylvania](#) / Beaver

Beaver, PA Domestic Violence Programs

There are currently 1 domestic violence and abuse shelters and programs in Beaver, PA with 1 offering a hotline and 1 offering emergency shelter. Outside of this city and still nearby, you can also find help at these 21 domestic violence and abuse **shelters and programs** in places like Cranberry Township, Allison Park, and Allison Park. If you have questions, consider reading these **domestic violence facts and statistics**, our archive of 1050 **domestic violence articles, recommended books on domestic violence**, or these insightful **stories about domestic violence** survivors.

Women's Center of Beaver County

Emergency Shelter Profile Strength: 72% See wish list

24/7 Hotline 724-775-0131

Admin 724-775-2032

See Hours ▾

Emergency Services (8), Legal and Financial Assistance Services (4), Counseling Services (8), Housing Services (5), Support Services (5), Children's Services (7), Community Educational Services (1)

10. IS THERE ANY HOPE?



GOOD NEWS!

Luke 23:34

But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”



Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.



Psalm 27:10

**When my father and my mother forsake me,
Then the LORD will take care of me.**



**THERE WAS HOPE
FOR ME**

A landscape photograph featuring a dirt path that leads from the bottom center towards the horizon. The path is flanked by lush green grass. In the background, there is a line of trees and some distant buildings under a dramatic sky. The sky is filled with various clouds, including a large, dark, textured cloud in the upper left. The sun is setting on the right side, creating a warm, golden glow across the sky and the horizon.

**THERE IS HOPE,
THERE WAS FOR ME**



**FREEDOM
FROM ABUSE**