

the Refuge

Avoiding Common Mistakes

HEAL

Hear the cries of the oppressed

Establish safety

Apply the gospel

Lead in developing new patterns

Believe Her



Believe Her

- Exaggerating?
 - They tend to minimize.
- Lying? Creating a reason for divorce?
 - Leaving is too hard.

Believe Her

- How do you know?
 - Patterns of abuse

Domestic abuse is not an incident.
It is a pattern of behavior.



Oppression is a state of being.

Do not tell her to submit.

SUBMISSION Doesn't Mean
Putting Up with **ABUSE**



Do not take control of her life.

- Ask questions, help her process, present her with options.
- She makes all decisions.
- Best for her recovery
- Best for your conscience
- She knows her abuser better than anyone

Do not take control of her life.

- Examples of survivor making decisions:
 - Calling police
 - Contacting and networking with other organizations
 - Going back to the abuser

Not marriage conflict,
but a case of oppression

Marriage Conflict

Party A  Party B

Mutuality

Oppression

Perpetrator



Victim

No marriage counseling

- The abuser will feel singled out.
- The survivor will feel at fault.
- Survivor has to choose between concealing the truth or being abused.

Tips for Identification

- Know abusive behavior patterns.
- Be sensitive to hints the survivor may give or opportunities she may try to create to tell you about the abuse.
- Make it your policy to have the second counseling session be individualized.

God is always on the
side of the oppressed.