

Old Testament Bible Readings (NIV)

Psalms of comfort for those oppressed by domestic violence:

It is clear throughout scripture that God cares for the oppressed and offers love and concern for the afflicted. Domestic violence is never within God's plan for humanity. Surely, abuse grieves God as we can see in these verses below.

- The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. **Psalm 9:9**
- But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless. **Psalm 10:14**
- Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **Psalm 23:4**
- May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you. **Psalm 33:22**
- For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. **Psalm 72:12**
- Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. **Psalm 82:3-4**
- God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. **Psalm 147:3**

Discussions of God's justice for the oppressed and abused:

The justice of a righteous God is evident. This justice may not be witnessed in the day-to-day living of those crushed under the weight of abuse, but God hears the cries of the oppressed. God sees the innocence of victims and survivors of abuse and calls on us to defend them.

- For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice; the upright will see his face. **Psalm 11:7**
- The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love. **Psalm 33:5**
- And the heavens proclaim his righteousness, for he is a God of justice. **Psalm 50:6**
- The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. **Psalm 103:6**
- I know that the LORD secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy. **Psalm 140:12**
- Anyone who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty. **Job 6:14**
- It is not good to be partial to the wicked and so deprive the innocent of justice. **Proverbs 18:5**
- Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. **Isaiah 1:17**
- He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. **Micah 6:8**

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What is Love?

The concept of love is vital in any marriage. Ideally, husbands and wives will love each other as God loves us. There is no room for harsh words, anger, aggression, intimidation, manipulation, assault, or neglect. Instead, the love exhibited should be pure, caring, gentle, and kind.

- A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. **John 13:34-45**
- Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **1 Corinthians 13:4-5**
- Show proper respect to everyone. **1 Peter 2:17a**
- Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. **1 John 3:18**
- Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. **1 John 4:7-8**
- And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love. **2 John 1:6**

The Fruit of the Spirit:

Toxic and abusive behavior is the opposite of the Fruit of the Spirit. It serves self, rather than serving others. In contrast, the attitudes and behavior that honor God and honor a spouse reflect the Holy Spirit's influence.

- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things, there is no law. **Galatians 5:22-23**
- Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. **Ephesians 4:2-3**
- Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. **Colossians 3:12 and 14**
- Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. **Philippians 4:5**
- For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **2 Peter 1:5-8**