

“Violence in Pre-Marital Relationships”

Dr. E.K.D. Quick

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION-----	1
ABSTRACT-----	1
PREMARITAL VIOLENCE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS-----	2-5
ASSESSING PREMARITAL VIOLENCE-----	6-10
CHRISTIAN VIEW OF PREMARITAL VIOLENCE -----	10-12
THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS-----	13-15
CONCLUSION-----	16
BIBLIOGRAPHY-----	17-19

Introduction

Premarital violence is a tragic precursor to a marriage that produces lifelong negative consequences to every facet of the family of origin. Also, the devastation of this sickness is often needlessly passed on to the forthcoming generations. Thankfully, it is possible to detect premarital violence and provide alternatives to hasty marital decisions, while allowing the couple to receive the care and concern they'll need to have a successful relationship. In this paper, we will discuss the various assessments and interventions of premarital violence.

Abstract

In this world we live in, premarital violence assessments are both critical and compulsory. The counselor can achieve a quality assessment via an over arching method that addresses a complete bio-psycho-social-spiritual approach. Statistical data bears witness that our present society is ripe with conflict and abuse. Various theoretical orientations can be used to treat the individual and couple. In addition to the diversified list of interventions which are used, all counselors should agree to utilize the clinical constants that are apropos to helping couples struggling with conflict and abuse, such as the safety of the client, the safety of the counselor and the overall clinical wellness of the client.

The counselor can provide a monumental service to the couple by assessing any dangers of premarital violence. This duty bound and ethical obligation can be done within the initial interview and early counseling sessions. When a counselor is assessing a couple for premarital counseling, the counselor should be aware that there is a possibility of domestic violence within the family. According to Patterson (1998), “estimates of family violence suggest that some type of violence occurs in approximately 15-20% of families” (p.43). Further, according to Miller, Perlman & Brehm (2007), “...violence is also regrettably common in premarital partnerships. Cohabiting couples are more violent than married couples (Johnson & Ferraro, 2000), and in a survey of over 4,700 U.S. college students at 32 different institutions, 37 percent of the men and 35 percent of the women reported having engaged in some form of intimate violence in the previous year (White & Koss, 1991). In that sample, more men (39 percent) than women (32 percent) indicated that their partners had used force against them” (p. 388). Furthermore, according to Miller, Perlman & Brehm (2007), “The sources of violence in dating relationships appear to be similar to those in more committed relationships, and it’s clear that, whenever people enter into interdependent intimacy, the potential for conflict, and even violence, exists” (p. 391). Additionally, Worthington (2005), states, “conflict is the single biggest characteristic of couples who come to marital counselors” (p. 66). Finally, the counselor has much to consider in assessing premarital violence, such as cultural considerations, religious interpretations, family of origin issues, family history and medical concerns.

In order to ascertain if premarital violence is evident, the counselor must be aware of what domestic violence is. According to the Center for Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence (1994), “domestic violence refers to a patter of violent and coercive behavior exercised by one adult in an intimate relationship over another. It is not marital conflict, mutual abuse, a lover’s quarrel or a private

family matter. It may consist of repeated severe beatings or more subtle forms of abuse, including threats and control". The following statistical information describes a culture of abuse that the counselor should be aware of when assessing premarital violence: (taken from <http://www.aardvarc.org/dv/statistics.shtml>)

From the U.S. Dept. of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Violence against Women: A National Crime Victimization Survey Report, January 1994"

- Nearly 2 in 3 female victims of violence were related to or knew their attacker. (p. iii)
- Over two-thirds of violent victimizations against women were committed by someone known to them: 31% of female victims reported that the offender was a stranger. Approximately 28% were intimates such as husbands or boyfriends, 35% were acquaintances, and the remaining 5% were other relatives. (In contrast, victimizations by intimates and other relatives accounted for only 5% of all violent victimizations against men. Men were significantly more likely to have been victimized by acquaintances (50%) or strangers (44%) than by intimates or other relatives.) (p. 1)
- Almost 6 times as many women victimized by intimates (18%) as those victimized by strangers (3%) did not report their violent victimization to police because they feared reprisal from the offender. (p. 1)
- Annually, compared to males, females experienced over 10 times as many incidents of violence by an intimate. On average each year, women experienced 572,032 violent victimizations at the hands of an intimate, compared to 48,983 incidents committed against men. (p. 6)

From: "Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends, U.S. Department of Justice, March, 1998"

- Estimates range from 960,000 incidents of violence against a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend each year to 4 million women who are physically abused by their husbands or live-in partners each year.
- While women are less likely than men to be victims of violent crimes overall, women are 5 to 8 times more likely than men to be victimized by an intimate partner.
- Violence by an intimate partner accounts for about 21% of violent crime experienced by women and about 2 % of the violence experienced by men.
- 31,260 women were murdered by an intimate from 1976-1996.

- Females accounted for 39% of the hospital emergency department visits for violence-related injuries in 1994 but 84% of the persons treated for injuries inflicted by intimates.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline has received more than 700,000 calls for assistance since February 1996. Source: National Domestic Violence Hotline, December 2001

It is estimated that 503,485 women are stalked by an intimate partner each year in the United States. Source: National Institute of Justice, July 2000

Studies show that child abuse occurs in 30-60% of family violence cases that involve families with children. Source: "The overlap between child maltreatment and woman battering." J.L. Edleson, Violence Against Women, February, 1999

Nearly one-third of American women (31 percent) report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives. Source: Commonwealth Fund survey, 1998

About 75% of the calls to law enforcement for intervention and assistance in domestic violence occur after separation from batterers. One study revealed that half of the homicides of female spouses and partners were committed by men after separation from batterers (Barbara Hart, Remarks to the Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, April 1992)

Each year, medical expenses from domestic violence total at least \$3 to \$5 billion. Businesses forfeit another \$100 million in lost wages, sick leave, absenteeism and non-productivity. Source: Domestic Violence for Health Care Providers, 3rd Edition, Colorado Domestic Violence Coalition, 1991.

From 1983 to 1991, the number of domestic violence reports received increased by almost 117%. Source: New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, 1983 and 1991.

Violence is the reason stated for divorce in 22% of middle-class marriages. Source: EAP Digest November/December 1991.

Every year, domestic violence results in almost 100,000 days of hospitalizations, almost 30,000 emergency department visits, and almost 40,000 visits to a physician. Source: American Medical Association. 5 issues American Health. Chicago 1991.

Studies by the Surgeon General's office reveal that domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between the ages of 15 and 44, more common than automobile accidents, muggings, and cancer deaths combined. Other research has found that half of all women will experience some form of violence from their partners during marriage, and that more than one-third are battered repeatedly every year. Source: Journal of American Medical Association, 1990.

Battered women seek medical attention for injuries sustained as a consequence of domestic violence significantly more often after separation than during cohabitation; about 75% of the visits to emergency rooms by battered women occur after separation (Stark and Flitcraft, 1988).

Women who leave their batterers are at 75% greater risk of severe injury or death than those who stay. Source: Barbara Hart, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 1988.

In 92% of all domestic violence incidents, crimes are committed by men against women. Source: "Violence Against Women", Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, January, 1994.

Of women who reported being raped and/or physically assaulted since the age of 18, three quarters (76 percent) were victimized by a current or former husband, cohabitating partner, date or boyfriend. Source: "Prevalence Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey", U.S. Department of Justice, November, 1998.

In 2003, among all female murder victims in the U.S., 30% were slain by their husbands or boyfriends. Source: Uniform Crime Reports of the U.S. 1996, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2003 (January - June).

A child exposed to the father abusing the mother is at the strongest risk for transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next. Source: "Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family", APA, 1996

Forty percent of teenage girls age 14 to 17 report knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend. Source: Children Now/Kaiser Permanente poll, December, 1995.

Family violence costs the nation from \$5 to \$10 billion annually in medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters and foster care, sick leave, absenteeism, and non-productivity. Source: Medical News, American Medical Association, January, 1992.

Husbands and boyfriends commit 13,000 acts of violence against women in the workplace every year. Source: "Violence and Theft in the Workplace", U.S. Department of Justice, July, 1994.

The majority of welfare recipients have experienced domestic abuse in their adult lives and a high percentage are currently abused. Source: Trapped by Poverty, Trapped by Abuse: New Evidence Documenting the Relationship Between Domestic Violence and Welfare, The Taylor Institute, April, 1997.

Assessing Premarital Violence

The counselor can begin by making a full assessment of the couple. Worthington (2005), includes “evidence of violence by either or each partner” as a part of the initial intake form (p. 93). Further, according to Walker (1979) and Walker & Hooper (1982), as part of the assessment process, both the male batterer and the battered female have a “family history of domestic violence” and both either saw or were a victim of physical and/or sexual abuse (p. 45). The counselor should always realize that whether an individual is physically abused or witnesses the abuse, both are considered victims and both are considered traumatic experiences. Furthermore, according to Patterson (1998), there are commonalities between the male batterer and the battered female that can be detected during the assessment, such as both having a “family history of domestic violence” coupled with both having “low self-esteem” (p. 45). As a result, both individuals create an unhealthy symbiosis that continually feed into one another, thus, perpetuating the continued cycle of violence.

When assessing the couple, the counselor should consider any medical concerns. The counselor should ask the couple to consider having a full physical exam before marriage. A marriage is a lifelong commitment, and any latent medical issues may be a cause for concern later. Also, it would be wise for the counselor to ask the couple some simple medical history questions. For example, if the couple has had any closed head injuries in their life. According to Meier, Minirth, Wichem & Ratcliff (1991), “the secondary temporal lobe is located in the front of the primary area...because this area is close to the limbic system in the lower part of the brain, damage can produce certain kinds of emotional problems (such as depression or uncontrollable violence)” (p. 44).

When assessing the couple, the counselor should consider looking for signs of the Cycle of Violence Hypothesis. Many times, those who abuse children were themselves abused as children.

Feldman (2006) states, “according to the Cycle of Violence Hypothesis, the abuse and neglect that children suffer predispose them as adults to abuse and neglect their own children. According to this hypothesis, victims of abuse have learned from their childhood experiences that violence is an appropriate and acceptable form of discipline. Violence may be perpetuated from one generation to another, as each generation learns to behave abusively (and fails to learn the skills needed to solve problems and instill discipline without resorting to physical violence) through its participation in an abusive, violent family” (p. 283). Additionally, the counselor can look for The Stages of Violence. According to Walker (1989), marital aggression by a husband typically occurs in three stages, called The Stages of Violence. “The first is the tension building stage in which a batterer becomes upset and shown dissatisfaction initially through verbal abuse. The next stage consists of an acute battering incident, when the physical abuse actually occurs. The episode then moves into the loving contrition stage, at which the husband feels remorse and apologizes for his actions (sometimes this is called the Hearts and Flowers stage)” (p. 576). Further explained, during the tension building stage, tension builds between the couple. Problems regarding jobs, finances, children, and other areas are stressors that increase the tension. There may be verbal, emotional, or physical abuse during this phase. Over time, abuse and battering increase and escalate in frequency and severity. The woman attempts to control the abuse through various coping techniques such as avoidance, placating, or giving in. These are stop-gap measures, however, and do not work for long, if at all. Once the tension reaches an unbearable level, the acute battering incident occurs. During this stage, the acute battering incident, there is an uncontrollable discharge of built-up tension; the process has stopped responding to any control. The trigger for moving into this phase is rarely the woman's behavior; rather it is usually an external stressor (problems at work, a flat tire, etc.) or the internal state of the abuser. The type of battering that occurs is usually much more serious and intense than in the previous phase and the woman may be severely injured. Because the acute battering incident may be

triggered by anything, there is a complete lack of predictability. Occasionally a woman may unconsciously provoke the acute battering incident. She knows from experience that it is coming and wants to get it over with, and she knows that there will be a honeymoon phase following the abuse. There is no escape once the battering has begun; only the batterer can end the incident. After the severe battering has occurred, the couple moves into the honeymoon phase where the abuser realizes he has gone too far. He typically exhibits loving, kind behavior while apologizing and promising that it will never happen again. Both the abuser and the victim want to believe that it won't happen again. He believes that she has learned her lesson and she becomes hooked back into the relationship by his sincere apology and loving behavior, flowers, weekend away, new dress, etc. The tension has been dissipated by the abuse and both members of the couple are relieved. During this honeymoon phase, the couple becomes very close emotionally. The entire session is cyclical and will be repeated at various times.

When assessing the couple, the counselor should consider any cultural concerns. Moreover, the following examples are lethal and should be of high interest to the counselor. Feldman (2006), states in the following two examples: “After Dong Lu Chen beat his wife to death, he was sentenced to five years probation. He had confessed to the act but claimed that his wife had been unfaithful to him. His lawyer (and an anthropologist) had argued in court that traditional Chinese values might have led to his violent reaction to his wife’s purported infidelity. After Lee Fong, a Laotian immigrant, had abducted a 16-year-old girl, he was acquitted of kidnapping, sexual assault and menacing. During his trial, his lawyer argued that bride stealing is a traditional custom among the Hmong people of Laos. Both of the above cases were decided in courts in the United States. In both cases, lawyers based their arguments on the claim that in Asian countries from which the defendants had emigrated, the use of violence against women was common and may even have received social approval. The juries agreed with this cultural defense justification” (p. 577-578). A third example is listed, this one of particular concern to any female

victim that may be led to file a domestic violence complain. Kornblum (1997), states, “Mrs. Lee is referred to a social worker after seeking aid at a police station when she was struck in the face by her husband. In Chinese and other Asian cultures, the wife is expected to leave her family of orientation to take up residence with her husband and his extended family. Mrs. Lee’s husband’s family, is dominated by her mother-in-law, a powerful widow who treats Mrs. Lee as the person with the lowest status in the family. Mrs. Lee wishes her mother-in-law would be less autocratic and complains about her dictatorial behavior to her own parents and to her husband. Her husband on the other hand, believes his wife should conform to the ancient norms of Chinese family life and obey his mother. He and his mother consider Mrs. Lee a traitor because she has appealed to authorities outside the family” (p. 492). Further, although the tendency often is to see marital violence and aggression as a particular North American phenomenon, in fact other cultures have traditions in which violence is regarded as acceptable (Rao, 1997).

Furthermore, in Western societies too, wife beating was acceptable at one time. According to English common law, which formed the foundation of the legal system in the United States, husbands were allowed to beat their wives. In the 1800s, this law was modified to permit only certain kinds of beatings. Specifically, a husband could not beat his wife with a stick or rod that was thicker than his thumb, hence, the origin of the phrase, rule of thumb. It was not until the late 19th century that this law was removed from the books in the United States (Davidson, 1977).

When assessing the couple, the counselor should consider family history. A genogram can be a great tool to identify family patters. Patterson (1998) states, “A genogram is a convenient way in which to visually capture the family structure” (p. 60). Further, according to Patterson (1998), a genogram is an “assessment tool” (p.76). Furthermore, according to McGoldrick, Gerson & Shellenberger (1999), “since family patterns can be transmitted from one generation, to the next, the clinician should scan the genogram for patterns that have repeated over several generations. Such repetitive patterns occur in

functioning, relationships and family structure. Recognizing such patterns often helps families avoid repeating unfortunate patterns or transmitting them into the future. Tracking critical events and changes in family functioning, its resources and vulnerability to future stress, and then try to understand such events in the larger social, economic and political context. This tracking enables the clinician to seek ways to promote resilience based on past sources of strength and modify adaptive strategies that in the past have proved dysfunctional” (p. 13).

When assessing the couple, the counselor should consider religious interpretations. According to the Center for Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence (1994), “religious teachings can serve as either a roadblock or a resource in addressing domestic violence. There is nothing in Jewish or Christian teaching which can rightly be used to justify abuse. However, there are interpretations, which can be misused and distorted to suggest that domestic violence may be acceptable or even God’s will. When these teachings or interpretations of scripture are misused, they become roadblocks to ending the abuse. For example, a mis-interpretation of *Shalom Bayit*, the teaching about peace in the home, would place the sole responsibility on the woman to keep the peace and obey her husband, would be a serious roadblock to addressing domestic violence for a battered woman”.

Christian View of Premarital Violence

According to Clinton & Ohlschlager (2002), “Christians believe marriage is a sacred institution ordained by God until one partner dies” (p. 455). As such, a covenant is made between the man and woman and the couple and the Lord. The couple covenants to honor each other but most importantly, covenants to honor marriage as God has ordained it. Thus, the man should love his wife and the woman should love her husband according to God’s word. The scriptures declare how a woman and man ought to treat each other, as stated, “submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit

yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband” (Ephesians 5:21-33, King James Version). Moreover, the scriptures declare how a family should treat each other, as stated, “wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord” (Colossians 3:18-21, King James Version), and, how a parent should raise their child, as stated, “and ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4, King James Version). Additionally, the scriptures repudiate any domestic violence behavior, as stated, “to speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men” Titus 3:2, King James Version). Finally, the scriptures speak of love as a paramount virtue of Christians, as stated, “charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all

things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things” (I Corinthians 13:4-7, King James Version).

Another aspect of the premarital violence assessment would be the consideration of the worldview. The counselor should consider, that, as a Christian couple, the worldview is a critical factor to ruminate. As stated, by Entwistle (2004), “worldviews shape how we understand our experience in the world, and reflect our expectations about life” (p. 67). A couple that is receiving a premarital violence assessment that has different worldviews between each other, may have a life threatening impact on the potential of the marriage, as we have seen earlier with the cultural examples. Moreover, scripture outlines that God's will is for Christians to only marry Christians, as stated, “be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers...” (2 Corinthians 6:14, King James Version) and “can two walk together accept they be agreed” (Amos 3:3, King James Version). Christians should have a Biblical worldview, seeing everything and framing everything via the prism of scriptural contexts, while non-Christians hold a secular worldview, seeing everything and framing everything within the context of man’s reasoning, culture perspectives, human limitations and material perspectives. Finally, Meier, Minirth, Wichern & Ratcliff (1991) states, “less marital conflict can be expected in a marriage where the husband and wife are mature believers” (p. 331).

As we have observed, any premarital violence is antithetical and contradictory to the scriptures. When the counselor does an assessment or interviews the perspective couple for possible marriage, red flags should occur when violent characteristics appear. Notwithstanding, even if a particular counselor does not hold to Christian ethics, he or she can resort to professional counseling ethics and appropriate regulations as a ethical compass, which would dictate to the counselor when violent and inappropriate characteristics are evident in premarital counseling.

Therapeutic Interventions

Clients who have experienced domestic violence or traumatic events would need counselors that have competency in those areas. According to Gladding (2004), “counselors who are employed in the area of working with ASD or PTSD clients need specialized training to help these individuals” (p. 20). Additionally, there are various approaches to violence that are used based on the Theoretical Orientation of the counselor. In terms of the psychoanalytic perspective to violence, Wade & Tavis (1990), states, Freud concludes, “distresses were to conflicts, memories and emotional traumas that often went back to early childhood” (p. 18). According to Hall & Lindzey (1970), Freud concludes, “aggressiveness is self-destruction turned outward against substitute objects” (p. 39). Wade & Tavis (1990) states, in terms of the behaviorist’s perspective, “behaviorists do not probe the inner lives or motives of violent people. Instead, behaviorally oriented research identifies the sorts of situations that promote violence and the kinds of payoffs it earns for its perpetrators” (p. 18). Wade & Tavis (1990) also states, in terms of the cognitive perspective, cognitive research has shown that our actions are influenced by how we perceive reality and the intentions of others. For example, people who are quick to become violent often assume that others are insulting them” (p. 21). When using Narrative Therapy, Goldenberg & Goldenberg (2004) states, “cultural stories help influence and shape personal narratives providing dominant narratives specifying the customary or preferred ways of behaving within that culture. Similarly, wife battering or other forms of male violence and abuse against women can only thrive in a society that endorses male dominance and patriarchy” (p. 346). As far as Christian counseling is concerned, Clinton & Ohlschlager (2002) states, “the paucity of books explicitly about Christian marital therapy (as distinct from enrichment, pastoral counseling, preparation for marriage, marriage mentoring, marriage dynamics and marital self-help approaches) reflects one of the two paradoxes within this general area. Christians value marriage highly, yet, 1) relatively little research has been conducted on Christian marriage or marital

interventions, and 2) few books explicitly lay out a clear system of how to do marital therapy with people who have troubled marriages” (p. 460). Nevertheless, there are copious Christian materials available that can be used as marital interventions, for assessment purposes, for marital maintenance and for the restoration of the marriage. Such materials are The Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) by Stanley, Saving Your Marriage Before it Starts (SYMBIS) by Parrott, Preparation for Marriage Program by Wright, Marriage Savers Program by McManus and Hope Focused Marriage Enhancement by Worthington.

Whatever theory the counselor may utilize, there are constants that all counselors should agree on when executing therapeutic interventions. First, all counselors should agree on premarital education, not only to prepare the perspective couple for a successful marriage, but also to help assess any possibility of premarital violence. As stated by Rosier (2006), “according to Dr. Jason Carroll and Dr. William J. Doherty, research has shown that marriages that start with marriage education have a 30% higher chance of success, over those that go it alone. Leading marital researchers like John Gottman and Howard Markman are saying that skill-based pre-marital workshops are the best way to Divorce-Proof your marriage”. Second, when premarital violence is assessed, the counselor should highly consider changing the mode of therapy from conjoint therapy to individual therapy. Third, if there is abuse, to include a child or the elderly, the counselor has a duty to warn. This should be covered in the initial intake and the reviewing of the Informed Consent Contract. Fourth, depending on the severity, a Restraining Order may be utilized by the victim. Fifth and finally, a safety plan would be most appropriate to construct upon the first initial sessions of the individual’s counseling. The safety plan can include the following: 1) establishing a safe place to go that is unknown to the batterer, 2) knowing emergency numbers such as police & shelter, 3) telling a person of trust what is happening, 3) trusting instincts and getting out if

escalation occurs, 4) hiding important documents, having extra money and keys. There are obviously degrees and gradations within the assessment process when identifying premarital violence. The counselor should be aware that depending on the level, whether it be a family history of premarital violence, or, a current abusive situation involving premarital violence, the counselor is ethically, legally and duty bound to interject the appropriate level of intervention.

Conclusion

Premarital violence can be detected by premarital counseling. However, the depth of the counseling must include a comprehensive assessment that includes family history factors, family of origin issues, cultural impact, religious concerns, biological considerations and individual psychosocial analysis. The results of a quality premarital assessment can directly impact the quality of the marriage. Also, when assessing for premarital violence, the counselor must consider the differences in worldviews and the spiritual beliefs of the individuals within the couple. Finally, although there may be considerable theories used by many different counselors, there are constants that are followed by all counselors, such as safety and the overall clinical well being of the client.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Center for Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence (1994). *What Every Congregation Needs to Know About Domestic Violence*. Seattle, WA: Center for Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence

Clinton, T., Ohlschlager G., (2002). *Competent Christian Counseling*. Colorado Springs, Colorado: Waterbrook Press.

Davidson, T. (1977). *Wife-beating: A Recurring Phenomenon Throughout History*. In M. Roy (Ed.), *Battered Women: A Psychosociological Study of Domestic Violence*. New York, New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold.

Entwistle, D., (2004). *Integrative Approaches to Psychology and Christianity* Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers.

Feldman, R., (2006). *Development Across the Life Span* Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Custom Publishing

Gladding, T. G., (2004). *Counseling A Comprehensive Profession*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Education.

Goldenberg, I., Goldenberg, H., (2004). *Family Therapy, An Overview*. Pacific Grove, California: Thomson Brooks/Cole

Hall C., Lindzey G., (1970). *Theories of Personality*. New York, New York: John Wiley & Sons.

- Kornblum, W., (1997). *Sociology in a Changing World*
Orlando, Florida: Holt Rinehart & Winston
- McGoldrick, M., Gerson, R., & Shellenberger, S. (1999). *Genograms: Assessments and Interventions*
New York, New York: W.W. Norton & Company
- Meier, P., Minirth, F., Wichem, F., Ratliff, D. (1991). *Introduction to Psychology and Counseling*
Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books
- Miller, R., Perlman, D., & Brehm, S. (2007), *Intimate Relationships*
New York, New York: McGraw-Hill
- Patterson, Jo Ellen (1998). *Essential Skills in Family Therapy*
New York, New York: The Guilford Press
- Rao, V. (1997). *Wife-beating in Rural South India: A Qualitative and Econometric Analysis*
Social Science & Medicine, 44, 1169-1180.
- Rosier, N. (2006). *Premarital Counseling and Marriage Education Workshops Happily Ever After and Then Some..? Prevent Marriage Decay*. CounselingSeattle.com.
- U.S. Department of Justice, March, (1998). *“Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends”*
- U.S. Dept. of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics, January, (1994). *“Violence against Women: A National Crime Victimization Survey Report”*

Wade C., Tavis C., (1990). *Psychology*
New York, New York: Harper and Row

Walker, L. (1979). *The Battered Woman*
New York, New York: Harper & Row.

Walker, L. (1989). *Psychology and Domestic Violence Against Women*
American Psychologist, 44, 695-702.

Walker, L. & Hooper, A., (1982). *Management of the Physically and Emotionally Abused*
Norwalk, CT: Appleton-Century-Crofts

Worthington, E. (2005). *Hope-Focused Marriage Counseling*
Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press