

# The Heart of an Abuser

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# Mark 7:21-23

“For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Our behavior flows from  
the desires of our hearts.

# Contributing Factors, Symptoms, and Cause

## Contributing Factor:

something that contributes to the situation, but is not the cause.

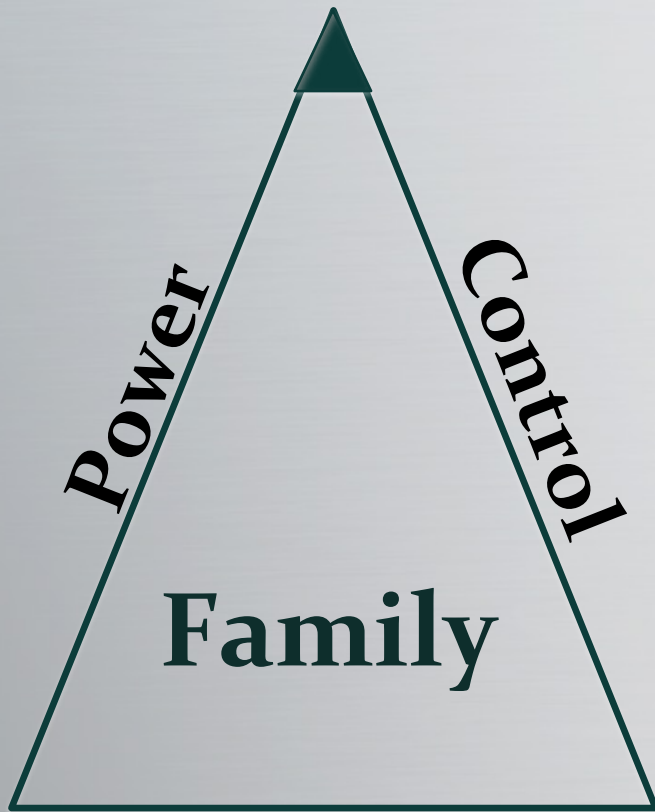
- Drugs and alcohol
- Growing up in an abusive family

# Contributing Factors, Symptoms, and Cause

Symptom: a behavior that indicates abuse is present.

- Anger

# Power and Control



- Abusive actions are *tools* used to control
- Oppression = Power Imbalance
- Anger: control through intimidation & fear

He's not abusive because he's angry.  
He's angry because he's abusive.



Solution: Control himself more



He's not abusive because he's angry.  
He's angry because he's abusive.

Desire  
for  Anger  Abuse  
Control

Solution: Control her less



# Entitlement

The abuser's belief that he has a special status and that it provides him with exclusive rights and privileges that do not apply to his partner.

# Entitlement

- The center of his partner's universe
- The abuser's desires and preferences become edicts that his wife must obey.

# Entitlement

**“I want what I want  
when I want it,  
*or else.*”**

# A Desire to be God

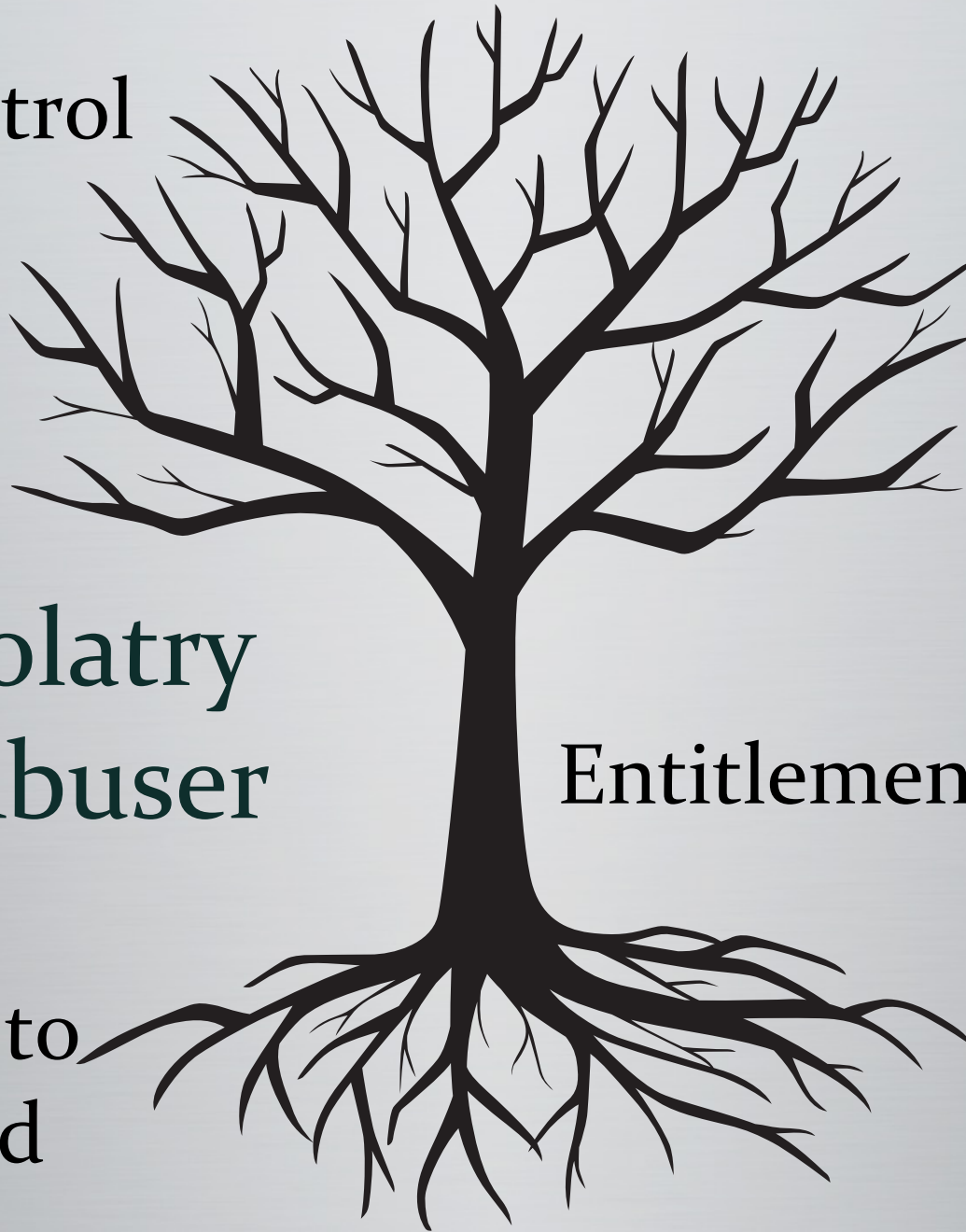
- Sovereign control.
- Entitled to be served.
  - The center of his partner's life.

Control

# The Idolatry of an Abuser

Entitlement

Desire to  
be God



An abuser's heart contains an intricate web of self-deception.

“The heart is deceitful above all things,  
and desperately sick;  
who can understand it?”

Jeremiah 17:9

An abuser's heart contains an intricate web of self-deception.

Justify: the abuser gives a reason for why his actions were legitimate under the circumstances.