

WHY WOMEN STAY IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP

ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE: Who will support her and her children?

PARENTING: Wanting a father for her children.

RELIGIOUS PRESSURE: Must keep the family together.

EXTENDED FAMILY PRESSURE: Must keep the family together.

FEAR OF BEING ALONE: Of being on her own. Fear that she cannot cope with home and children by herself.

LOYALTY: If he had cancer, she'd stick by him.

PITY: He's really so much worse off than she is. She feels sorry for him.

NEED TO RESCUE: If she stays, she can "save" him and help him get better.

FEAR OF SUICIDE: He says he will kill himself if she leaves.

DENIAL: It's really not so bad. "He's really a good person...really."

LOVE: She loves him, and he is often quite loving and lovable when he is not being abusive.

DUTY: She said she'd stay married to him, "until death do us part."

GUILT: She feels, and he claims that the marital problems are her fault, she caused his difficulties and his problems.

RESPONSIBILITY: It is up to her to work things out and save the marriage/relationship.

SHAME, EMBARRASSMENT AND HUMILIATION: She doesn't want anyone to know what's happening to her.

SECURITY: Belief in growing up in the American dream and living, "happily ever after."

IDENTITY: She feels she needs a man in order to be complete.

PERSONAL SECURITY: She fears the neighborhood or for the protection of her children.

SURVIVAL: She fears for her physical safety if she leaves because he has threatened to find her and kill her, her children, and/or her family.

OPTIMISM: Things will get better.

LOW SELF ESTEEM: It must be her fault, she must deserve it, she'll never find anyone better, and a little love is better than no love at all.

SEX ROLE CONDITIONING: This is just the way men are.