Sexual Abuse

II Corinthians 10:3-5 "For though we live in the world we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

I. Sex: gift or stronghold?

- God's intention for sex is good
- Genesis 2:24, given to unite a man and a woman into one flesh
- Genesis 2:25, "naked and unashamed" the standard for relationships
- Genesis 3:10, sin leads to fear & blame; "naked and ashamed"

II. Sexual Abuse

- Perverts understanding of relationship
 - Power, control and manipulation for selfish reasons
 - Loss of rights, loss of innocence, lack of healthy personal boundaries
 - Lack of understanding and freedom to engage in healthy relationships
- Silence the victim
 - Sexual abuse is often unreported
 - Blame, fear, sense of futility
 - \circ Loss of voice
- Victim often becomes villain/Generational curse
 - Distorted understanding of the purpose of sex
 - Looking for love in all the wrong places

III. Demolish Strongholds

- Spiritual forces of evil (Ephesians 6:12)
 - $\circ \quad \text{Rulers, devils, demons, gods}$
 - Authorities: rules and laws
 - Cosmic Power: consequences
- Schemes of Satan
 - Steal, kill, and destroy
 - Father of lies: deception
 - Masquerade: temptation
- Ways of God
 - Love, blessing, and abundant life
 - Mercy, forgiveness, and reconciliation

IV. Prayer Strategy

- Ask God to reveal the root of the stronghold
- Confess the belief, ask for truth
- Forgive offenses and break off generational curses and soul ties
- Receive forgiveness for sexual sin committed voluntarily
- Proclaim God as the Highest Authority and denounce the stronghold
- Accept God's definition of love and intimacy
- Ask God to restore purity to their heart and mind
- Repent to a lifestyle of purity