So My Husband is a Sex Offender, Now What???

Families of Registered Sex Offenders

- Threats
- Depression
- Loss of Housing
- Financial Instability
- Being Mocked
- Suicidal Tendencies
- Anger

Betrayal

Defined as disregarding the expectations within a relationship by engaging in behaviors that can be hurtful from a verbal, physical, and emotional standpoint.

I hate you,
and then I love you.
It's like I want to throw
you off a cliff,
then rush to the bottom
to catch you.

MY LIFE
Types of Betrayals

- Inappropriate Interaction
- Lack of Sensitivity
- Extra-relational Involvement
- Relational Threat Confounded by Deception
- Disregard for Primary Relationship
- Abrupt Termination
- Broken Promises and Rule Violations
- Deception, Secrets, and Privacy
- Abuse

(Metts & Cupach, 2007)

Will the Relationship Survive?

Impact on Relationship
- Severity
- Relational Satisfaction
- Investment
- Commitment

Trying to Make it Work
- Justification
- Apology
- Promise to Change
- Accepting Responsibility
- Enhancing Relational Satisfaction
- Making Meaning
Meet Steven and Cindy

- Married for 14 years
- Two Children
  - Camille (Victim – step-daughter) age 15; adopted by Steven at age 5
  - Logan age 12
- Steven and Cindy have a tumultuous history, especially surrounding Steven’s continued use of pornography
- Although both work (Steven – construction contractor / Cindy – school teacher), Steven is the primary means of financial support
- Financially comfortable lifestyle
- However, this “ended” when the children were 5 and 2, until Cindy recently found out Steven had been again viewing pornography on a computer she did not know he purchased.
- Camille made an outcry of being sexually abused by Steven at the age of 12
- Steven denied the offense through the Court proceedings, not admitting to the details of the offending behavior until he was placed on probation and the couple sought out marriage counseling

Will You Stay or Will you Leave?

- Non-offending partner
  - What impacted your decision to stay or leave?
  - Is there something that would have changed your decision?
  - What future implications does your decision have?
- Offender
  - How did you attempt to influence your partner’s decision?
  - Besides not offending, what could you have done differently?
  - What future implications does your decisions have?
- Professional
  - How do you feel about the decision the couple made?
  - As a professional, how does your value system impact your professional decisions?
  - How did the couple go about making the decision to stay or leave the relationship?
Revelation Risk Model (RRM)

- Three factors when considering to reveal a secret:
  - 1. Risk Assessment
  - 2. Willingness to reveal under certain conditions
  - 3. Communication Efficacy

Strategies for making disclosures

- Preparation and rehearsal
- Directness
- Third party disclosures
- Incremental disclosures
- Entrapment
- Indirect means

Dynamic Risk Factors - STABLE

- 1) Significant Social Influences
- 2) Intimacy Deficits
  - Lovers/Intimate Partners
  - Emotional Identification with Children
  - Hostility toward Women
  - General Social Rejection/Loneliness
  - Lack of Concern for Others
- 3) Sexual Self-regulation
  - Sex Drive/Preoccupation
  - Sex as Coping
  - Deviant Sexual Interests
- 4) Attitudes Supportive of Sexual Assault
  - Sexual Entitlement
  - Rape Attitudes
  - Child Molester Attitudes
- 5) Co-operation with Supervision
- 6) General Self-regulation
  - Impulsive Act
  - Poor Cognitive Problem Solving Skills
  - Negative Emotional/Hostility
Dynamic Risk Factors - ACUTE

- Victim Access
- Emotional Collapse
- Collapse of Social Supports
- Hostility
- Substance Abuse
- Sexual Pre-occupations
- Rejection of Supervision

(Hansen & Harris, 2003)

Back to Steven and Cindy

- They do have children – victim 15 and 12 year old son
- Their families (live within 1 ½ hours of family)
- They have previously lived with her parents in a difficult time in their marriage
- They are involved in church
- Professional jobs: Steven – contractor / Cindy – school teacher
- They have lived in same city for years and have a strong network of friends, their children have grown up with

Scenario Stay / Scenario Leave

- **Non-offending partner**
  - Who would you tell?
  - What approach do you use to disclose?
  - What details were disclosed?
  - Future implications?
- **Offender**
  - Are you in support of your significant other’s disclosure?
  - What approach do you feel is best for use in making disclosures?
  - Future implications?
- **Professional**
  - Who do you feel this information should be disclosed?
  - As a professional, when do you expect disclosures be made?
  - What details do you feel are pertinent to disclose?
References


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