Broken From Silence

RESTORING WHOLENESS

Bridge Builders

BUILDING A CULTURE OF GRACE
IN YOUR CHURCH

Every Member Has a Part

A church's culture is shaped not only by what is taught from the pulpit, but also by everyday conversations, attitudes, and actions. Each of us has a part in creating an environment where biblical truth is spoken with love, privacy is respected, and people feel welcome to seek support. When abortion has touched someone's life, our response can either deepen silence or open a door toward hope. We do not need to know someone's story to treat them with dignity, speak graciously, and make the invitation to receive care clear.

1. Speak Truth with Love

Hold firmly to biblical convictions while remembering that your words may be heard by someone with a personal abortion experience. Let your language communicate both the value of life and the mercy and restoration available in Christ.

Avoid ridicule, sweeping assumptions, and statements that suggest someone is beyond forgiveness or welcome.

A helpful response:
"We believe every life has value, and we also believe there is mercy, forgiveness, and hope in Christ."

2. Listen Without Pressuring

If someone chooses to share, receive their trust with humility. You do not need to ask for details, offer an immediate solution, or explain how they should feel. Give them room to speak—or to stop speaking.

Do not use an awareness discussion to invite public disclosures or ask participants whether they have experienced abortion.

A helpful response:
"Thank you for trusting me. You do not have to share more than you want to. How can I support you right now?"

3. Respect Privacy

Someone else's story is not ours to share. Do not repeat personal information in conversations, group discussions, prayer requests, or ministry updates without permission.

Avoid promising absolute secrecy. If a concern requires help from an appropriate leader, be honest about that and involve the person in the next step whenever possible.

A helpful response:
"I want to respect your privacy. If we need additional help, we can talk together about whom to involve."

4. Make Support Easy to Find

Help people know where they can turn without requiring them to explain their situation publicly. Share approved resources, point to a designated care contact, and make discreet help information available.

You do not have to become a counselor or lead a healing group to be a caring church member. Your part may simply be to listen, offer encouragement, and help someone connect with prepared support.

A helpful response:
"Our church has resources and someone you can speak with privately. Would you like the contact information?"

5. Walk Alongside with Patience

Do not pressure someone to seek help, tell their story, join a group, or demonstrate that they have "moved on." Offer steady care while respecting their choices and pace.

With permission, you might pray with them, check in, or help them contact a trusted ministry leader.

A helpful response:
"You do not have to figure everything out today. I am willing to walk alongside you as you consider your next step."

One Faithful Step

Consider one action you can take:

- Choose more gracious words when this topic arises.
- Become familiar with your church's help resources.
- Keep a confidential-help card available to share discreetly.
- Ask a ministry leader how you can support the church's awareness efforts.
- Pray for those who may be carrying burdens in silence.

My next step:

A Prayer for Our Church

Lord Jesus, help us become a church that reflects Your truth and compassion. Guard our words, teach us to listen, and help us honor the privacy of others. Give us wisdom to offer care without pressure and humility to recognize when additional support is needed. May those who carry hidden burdens find welcome, mercy, and a pathway toward restoration in You. Amen.
For resources or a private inquiry:

[Designated Church Contact] _____
[Email / Phone] _____