

Break The Silence Against Domestic Violence

Union of Saints Introduction

This experience is disturbing, unfortunately common today, and shows the true character of many offenders. Akin to Red Pill art, this is "Red Pill" relationship strategy and manipulation. The offender is attempting to get ahead of the allegations and shape the narrative before others reach their own conclusions.

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"IF I HAD ASSAULTED HER... WOULD SHE HAVE COOKED ME DINNER SIX DAYS LATER?"

That's the question Ohio Congressman Max Miller asked the public this week while denying domestic violence allegations made by his ex-wife.

In a livestream, Miller said:

"Ask yourself: If I had assaulted her, would she have offered to cook me dinner six days later? Would she have invited me to spend an afternoon at the playground with her and our daughter?"

Miller has denied all allegations, calling them false and part of an ongoing custody dispute. No criminal charges have been filed related to the allegations, and the custody case is ongoing.

But his comments have sparked a much larger conversation that extends far beyond this case.

For many survivors, what happens after an alleged assault is not always what people expect.

Some return home.

Some make dinner.

Some go on family outings.

Some continue texting.

Some try to keep the peace.

Some do whatever they believe is necessary to protect themselves or their children.

Domestic violence advocates have long said that staying connected to an abusive partner, or appearing "normal" afterward, does not, by itself, tell us whether abuse did or did not occur. People's responses to trauma and fear can be complex.

This case has become about more than one politician.

It's raising a question that survivors have been trying to answer for years:

Why do so many people expect victims to act a certain way after abuse?

Union of Saints' Opinion

This discussion highlights an important issue that extends beyond any single case. A woman's kindness, gratitude, natural empathy, love, compassion, or desire to preserve her family should never be used, by itself, as evidence that abuse did not occur. Many victims continue communicating, preparing meals, attending family activities, or attempting to restore peace for a variety of reasons. Some hope the violence will stop, some are trying to protect their children, some fear escalating the situation, and others simply want life to return to normal.

Using those acts of compassion as proof that abuse could not have happened misunderstands the dynamics of abusive relationships. In some abusive relationships, an abuser may attempt to use a victim's empathy, forgiveness, or efforts to maintain stability against her, later pointing to those actions as though they disprove the allegations. That line of reasoning, standing alone, does not determine whether abuse occurred.

At the same time, it is equally important that allegations be evaluated fairly and objectively. No single action after an alleged incident, whether making dinner, sending a text message, returning home, or attending a family outing, proves or disproves what happened. Every case deserves to be examined on its own facts and the totality of the available evidence rather than assumptions about how a victim "should" behave after an alleged assault.

The Other Layer and Lesson That Union of Saints Is Now Teaching

One of the lessons Union of Saints is now teaching is that boundaries are physical. Words communicate a boundary. Actions honor it.

A person may clearly express discomfort, ask for space, decline contact, or establish a personal limit. Respect is demonstrated when that boundary remains intact. Physical boundaries protect personal safety, dignity, autonomy, and peace.

This principle applies within families, friendships, workplaces, communities, and intimate relationships. Every person has the right to establish personal boundaries, and every person has the responsibility to respect them.

The protocol of boundary setting must be robust. It must be spiritual, physical, and mental. It must define the line in the sand so clearly that the other person fully understands what it means. Unfortunately, this is a struggle many people face in relationships. There is often boundary pushing, manipulation, and abuse.

Our boundaries must be defined so clearly that there is no question where they stand. When those boundaries are violated, we must be willing to leave. Going into any relationship moving forward, especially in today's world, our first priority should be boundaries.