

Self Reflection: How Do You View Women?

Note: I know you may not think this blog entry pertains to you as a man; especially, if you're okay with being turned down by women. Nevertheless, please read this entry in its entirety because you may discover something about yourself that you did not know, and, at the same time, you may be able to help save some woman's life from the "types" of men spoken of in this entry. The purpose of this blog entry is to encourage self reflection. I am in no way implying that all men think the same (as you'll see in the post), nevertheless, we have to address real issues with boldness and clarity so that the people of God can be set free. There are many hindering mindsets in the church and God is calling His people to come forth and address these mindsets so that His people can flourish.

One conversation that women commonly have is about how we were treated by some of the men we've rejected. Most of us have been cursed out, yelled at or talked about simply because we refused to give some man our contact information. And here's the thing: Most women let their would-be suitors down nicely and easily, but the truth is... some men feel superior to women, and therefore, feel entitled to them. This mindset, of course, says a lot about the man in question, but at the same time, this mindset (or spirit) is common... even in the church! The reality is the average man needs a renewed mind in relation to how he views women.

Many of today's women are afraid to flat-out reject men because they don't know how those men will respond. After all, the average woman has been called out of her name just because she said "no thank you" to some man who was trying to get her number. There have even been cases where a woman's life was taken simply because she'd rejected some man, and believe it or not, women have to take all of this into consideration when being approached by men. That's why the average single woman tells men that she is in a relationship, or better yet, married just to keep from triggering an unwanted reaction out of them.

I wanted to hear from other women on the topic, so I asked a few women (privately) on Facebook how they responded to men they weren't interested in. I asked them privately because I didn't want them to see how the other women responded because I do understand that we (human beings) are sometimes influenced by others. I wanted them to answer from their own personal experiences. Eight women responded to the question, and one of the things I want to point out is...I never asked them how they would respond if the men were persistent, nevertheless, more than half of the women questioned, by default, mentioned some extensive measure she'd taken to ensure her pursuer wouldn't get offended or wouldn't pursue her any

further. Many of these women told their suitors they were in relationships.. Now, most of the woman who said they were in a relationship actually meant they were in a relationship with the Lord, but they didn't tell the guys this. The reason I point this out is to showcase a growing problem in our culture, and that problem is: Many men in today's western world objectify women and don't think women have the right to say "no" to their advances. For this reason, they continue to pursue and harass women who've made it very clear that they are not interested in getting to know them. Of course, this is not all men, nevertheless, this is a problem we must address before it gets out of hand.

Note: I placed the color "red" on every response where a woman told her suitor she was in a relationship to get rid of the guy. The reason I wanted to bring attention to these responses is to show you the lengths women have to go through just to get away from persistent men. Of course, there are many cases where the guy isn't persistent, but a woman will not always know upfront what type of man she's dealing with so she has to respond with caution. The reason for this is she doesn't know if the man approaching or pursuing her can handle rejection, so it is easier for her to make him feel that he's not being rejected; she's simply respecting her relationship.

Question: When you're approached by a man you're not interested in, and he asks for your number, how do you respond?

Responses From Real Women (2015)

Danna: *Honestly, I haven't been asked since God has me hidden, but if it happened, I would politely tell him that I don't give my number out.*

Note: Danna's response was short and sweet. She said that she'd politely turn down her pursuer, and again, this is the best way to let a guy down, nevertheless, it goes without saying that some guys won't accept rejection in any form. Rejection, to them, is just rejection, and of course, their wounds go much deeper than a simple rejection from a stranger.

Erica Fennel: *My response typically depends on the situation, whether I am approached in passing- which hardly ever happens- or if I am approached while studying at Starbucks. So, when I am approached in passing, I won't typically say "Not interested," however, my face does. Not in a rude manner, but more in a standoffish way. Whereas, I appear to be in a rush. However, if I just have to face him (while studying or at a standstill), I will tell him that I am not looking for friends or looking to get into any relationship. Going on to tell him that I am*

focusing on my relationship with God at this time in my life. If he is persistent, like most men are, I will go on to tell him that I would prefer not to waste either of our time. And if he is adamant, telling me to think about it, while handing me his business card.... I have (in instances) taken the card just to quiet him...and dumped it in a nearby trash can.

Note: You'll notice that she said that most men are persistent and this is true. This behavior can come off as bullying and intimidating. When a woman says, "No, thank you," or if she simply says, "No, I am not interested," you should never continue pressing her for her number. Erica also went on to demonstrate how each situation is different and triggers a different response. You'll notice that she's trying to politely let down her pursuer, but this doesn't always work...and that's why she has to go on to talk about the lengths she has to go to get (some) of her suitors to leave her alone.

Tamika from Boston: *This happens to me often here in Boston. I typically smile, express my gratitude and decline. My response is something like this, "That's really sweet of you to say, but no thank you!" or "Wow, I'm flattered, but no thank you". Rarely have men had a snarky or rude comeback because of this response. They'll say something like, "Okay then, sweetheart" or nothing at all.*

I have a girlfriend who is unclear when declining (i.e., will brush them off in silence or show lack of interest with her body language). In these cases, men have been more persistent, and she's gotten into awkward situations where the man convinced her to share her number ... I think being clear and polite works best.

Note: I love Tamika's response because she took the time out to emphasize something we as women sometimes forget to do, and that is to be polite. Truthfully, in this day and time, many women feel the need to be firm, and truthfully, in many cases, a woman has to be firm because some men are absolutely persistent. I know some guys can appreciate a polite woman who lets them down easily, and this certainly does help when dealing with some men. I also love how she showed the differences between how her way of rejecting guys has gotten a better response from men than her friend's not-so-friendly way at dealing with persistent men. She goes on to mention that some guys have "convinced" her friend to hand over her contact information after she's rejected them. Truthfully, some men believe that women say "no" when playing hard to get, but they really mean "yes". This mindset is demonic in itself because it encourages men to aggressively pursue women in an attempt to wear them down. This tactic has worked a few times on Tamika's friend, but it does not mean that she said "no" when she meant "yes". It simply means that she needs a backup plan for dealing with persistent men.

R. Wade: *I usually say I'm taken. Although I'm technically not... in the spirit, I am waiting for*

my God-ordained, so I don't consider it lying but others might.

Note: Believe it or not, saying, "I'm in a relationship" is a common excuse that women give to men. As R. Wade mentioned, some people would consider this lying, but truthfully, when a woman of God says she's in a relationship, she likely means she's in a relationship with the Lord. Of course, she hopes the man won't press or pressure her past this point, but the reality is...some guys won't take "no" for an answer. Of course, most women give this response because being pursued by a persistent, and sometimes, pestering man has proven to be time-consuming. She's simply learned to shorten the conversations by saying she's in a relationship.

Tonya Hicks: *The last few men that have approached me have been my son's age (29). I just tell them no they are too young. The one man that was old enough to be my grand dad, I told him I had a man and kept walking.*

Note: Again, you see a woman of God who feels the need to say she's involved with someone just to get away from her pursuer. Additionally, you'll notice that Tonya had to give some of the guys a reason for rejecting them. She told them they were too young. The reason for this is... some guys take rejection personal. These types of men will oftentimes explode at the women who are rejecting them, therefore, many women of today offer up a reason in hopes that those reasons will soften the "no". That's because some men think that a woman saying, "I'm not interested," means she's saying, "You're not good enough for me," and that's not always the truth.

Ashley M: *Okay, to be honest... I haven't been approached much lately (laughs), but before I gave my life to Christ, I would lie to men and say I had a boyfriend. Now that I've grown in my spirituality, I would give an honest response and say, "I'm not interested in dating or having boyfriends at this time in my life," which is the truth... and if the man persists and asks more questions, I will say that I'm focused on God and won't be settling with anyone who does not have a real relationship with God... unless they are willing to court me God's way. Hopefully that will scare them off. Now, on the flip side, if the guy is an "Isaac" but I'm still not interested, I will tell him, "I'm sorry, but I'm just not interested at this time," and hope he understands.*

Note: Ashley said that she once told men that she was in a relationship, but because of where she is now in Christ, she is honest and upfront. This is a great approach, but I want you to notice that she has a backup plan for the men who simply won't take "no" for an answer. I wanted to expound on this because a lot of men don't realize how much thought a woman has to put into guarding herself from men who don't respect her right to say "no".

Abena: *It depends on their approach. If they approach me saying "Hey shortie".... "Hey dark*

chocolate," or "Hey sexy, can I get those digits?" I simply tell them, "No, I'm spoken for,"... knowing that I'm single. That's my way of preventing them from pursuing me.

Note: Abena touched on something very important. She addressed the way a man approached her, and said, in so many words, that her response depends on the way a man approaches her. She also gave us examples of some of the pick-up lines that pretty much alert her to the type of man she's being approached by. When being approached by a man who addresses her in an immature way, she simply says that she is spoken for. I think this is very important because we all know that all men aren't the same. As a matter of fact, I was on the phone with a brother in Christ, telling him how persistent some men could be, and his response was, "Those types of men are immature; they're little boys." I can most certainly agree with this, nevertheless, a woman's reality is she is pursued against her will, even after she's said "no" several times.

Karen S.: *That's a tough question (laughs). To be honest, there were times that I told a guy that I'm not interested in him, but we can be friends. Other times, I would tell him that I have a boyfriend. If he really liked me, I would hate to hurt his feelings because rejection hurts. But I would rather reject as opposed to leading him on... which is not good at all.*

Note: One thing I love about Karen's response is she expresses how she does not want to hurt her pursuer's feelings, and she goes on to say that rejection hurts... and it does. Nevertheless, you'll notice that she's another woman who feels the need to say to some guys that she has a boyfriend. The average woman thinks like Karen, believe it or not. She doesn't want to hurt her pursuer's feelings, nevertheless, in some cities, states and communities, it is absolutely necessary for a woman to be firm when saying "no" to men. Sometimes, a smile or a polite response is taken (by some guys) as an invitation to further pursue the women who are trying to get away from them.

Five of the eight women who responded said they either tell guys they are in relationships or have told guys they were in relationships just to stop them from pursuing them. I know you're likely saying that you're not that type of guy. You can take being rejected, and that's great if you can, but the reality is... there are a LOT of men who have been deeply wounded by women, and of course, in many of these cases, the first woman to ever wound these guys were their mothers. The Lord drew my attention to this subject, not so much to tell guys to stop being so persistent (even though you do need to cut that out), but to bring attention to a monster that's growing up in our nation, and that monster is the very same monster many Middle Eastern women deal with on a daily basis. Many of the men today are beginning to see women as objects and not humans, and this perspective can be very dangerous. As a matter of fact, it is the same perspective most serial killers have. They've learned to see people as objects, and

that's why some law enforcement agencies today are teaching women ways to survive should they find themselves in the company of a serial killer. The sad truth is many of those pointers are what women use to simply brush off the men who persistently pursue them. Of course, a man's reaction to rejection involves so many factors, which include, but are not limited to:

•**His upbringing and the very first relationship he's had with a woman: his mother.** Men who weren't raised by good or decent mothers oftentimes have trouble seeing women in a positive way. They often objectify women until they wholly submit themselves to God and the Lord gives them a renewed mind. In many of these cases, I'm sure the Lord (intentionally) surrounds them with women who act as their secondary mothers (in Christ) so they can understand that all women aren't the same.

•**His environment.** Many men grew up in communities where disrespecting women was the norm, and unfortunately, the mindsets from those communities are spreading like wildfire.

•**The music he listens to.** Let's stop playing nice and tell the truth: Hip hop, rap, rock and roll, punk rock and so many other genres of music objectify women, and whether we want to admit it or not, this music is destroying our nation!

•**His definition of a man.** Some men were taught that men were superior to women, and in many cases, they were taught this by their own mothers. Of course, no one walked up to them and told them outright they were superior, but the general attitude towards women in their households and communities spoke this message loud and clear. Additionally, many men have their own definitions of what a man does and how a man thinks, and unfortunately, many have taken these definitions from their philandering fathers and shady uncles.

•**His peers.** It goes without saying that our peers affect us in many ways, and a lot of guys are surrounded by broken, but loyal, friends. These friends have objective views in relation to women, and are always imposing their views on their peers.

When a nation, community or group begins to tear down its female members, that collective body is preparing for a fall. We've got to forcefully and unapologetically shine the spotlight in the dark corners of our nation so we can expose and eradicate these behaviors before it goes too far. Of course, many of the women questioned are 35 years of age or younger, and it goes without saying that the objectification of women is getting worse with every generation. Now,

we see a surge in media depicting women as nothing more than sexual objects and slaves. Additionally, today's music promotes male promiscuity. It's gotten so bad that in some communities, it is almost expected for men to be promiscuous, and in those communities, many sexually transmitted diseases run rampant.

There are a lot of men who simply don't know how to handle rejection and that's scary. Additionally, there are many men who have the wrong view of women, and each individual man has to search his own heart to ensure that he isn't a part of the problem.

Self Reflection Questions

- How do you view women?** This is important because it helps you to see where you stand with God. After all, God loves men and women; He created us both. The enemy has successfully blinded so many men by causing them to see women as beautiful, seductive creatures who are easy on the eyes, but predisposed to evil... creatures (men) can't live without, but have trouble living with. This isn't true. There are good women and there are bad women, nevertheless, God loves them all.
- When a woman rejects you, how does it make you feel?** Are you angry and compelled to say or believe that she thinks she's better than you? If so, why is this? Honestly, I've heard quite a few guys speak reproachfully of the women who've turned them down, and in many cases, these were decent guys. They simply had scars on their hearts from having been rejected by some woman (mother, grandmother or ex). So, anytime a woman turns them down, they react negatively.
- What types of words do you use when you're rejected by women?** This includes the women you were romantically involved with who have broken up with you or vice versa. Pay attention to the things you say when you've been rejected. They'll help you to see the condition of your heart.
- When a woman rejects you, how do you react?** Think about the last two or three times you were rejected; how did you react or respond? Were you polite, aggressive, condescending or nonchalant? Did you simply just walk away without saying a word?
- What's the best approach for a woman to let you down as a man?** Inquiring minds wanna know.

•**Do your friends objectify women?** We are who we hang with, therefore, our friends say a lot about us... even when we don't like what they're saying.

•**If you've been dating (or courting) a woman for a while, do you expect for her to have sex with you? If she's abstinent, would you be willing to wait until marriage to have sex with her? If not, why?** I've heard a lot of believing (abstinent) women say that they'd been dumped by men who'd claimed to be Christian simply because they wouldn't have sex with them. This "entitlement" mindset is ungodly and it is the evidence that the man who has it does not see women the way God designed him to see women.

You don't have to answer these questions via the blog, but I want you to answer them in your heart. Be honest with yourself and be honest with God. The reality is...so many men are being held back from receiving blessings because they have the wrong mindset when it comes to the daughters of God. I am confident that if many of you were to answer the questions truthfully, you may find that you were (unintentionally) objectifying or generalizing women. If you know the truth, you can confess it to God, be delivered from all ungodly thinking, and finally, get in line for that blessing you've been praying for.

Objective Views of Women Affect Marriage

I've spoken with and counseled quite a few couples, and anytime I come across a couple where the husband's view of women has been skewed by some sort of emotional trauma in his life (likely from a woman), one of the common complaints I hear from his wife is that he (the husband) can be condescending towards her (the wife). In most of these cases, the husband puffs himself up by implying, or in some instances, directly stating that he is smarter or better off than his wife. Of course, this misdirected type of thinking (again) comes from some sort of emotional trauma that he's suffered at the hands of a woman. The husband, himself, is not necessarily a "bad" guy, but the problem is, he is a fearful guy. He tears down his wife because he fears that if she knows her value, she will walk away from him... just like every other woman in his past. He tears down his wife because he wants her to always believe that she needs him, and outside of him, she is nothing. He tears down his wife because some woman has torn him down, and he has not yet learned to separate the crime committed against him from the gender of the person who committed it. Some people become prejudiced towards certain groups, races, communities, and genders simply because someone from that particular group has hurt or offended them. It's no different from a white man who hates all black men because he was robbed by a black man. He has yet to realize that all black men aren't the same,

so he generalizes the African American race. If he becomes a police officer, he's likely to become a cop who profiles black men, and he's likely to commit an unjustifiable crime against a black man. Does this mean he's a "bad" man? No, not necessarily. He's a traumatized man who needs healing, some race sensitivity courses, and of course, a whole lot of Jesus. That's the same "condition" a man has when he generalizes women based on one or more experiences he's had with women.

Lastly, I must say that a lot of men who are 35 years old and older are respectful and understanding when being rejected by women, nevertheless, they are no less persistent than their younger counterparts. With that being said, please know that God has "a" woman picked out especially for you, and it takes faith, obedience and perseverance to find that woman. She's faithful and loving; she will be *your* crown because she is one of God's greatest treasures and He wants to entrust you with her. Nevertheless, you have to prove yourself to be trustworthy. The reality is... most men will never find "her" because they'll be too busy entertaining the wrong women or the wrong mindsets. Don't be one of those guys. Protect the women in your community, and if you approach a woman with hopes of getting her contact information, please approach her knowing that she just might let you down. Don't be rude, offensive or condescending towards her; after all, she has as much right to turn you down as you have to turn down the women you're not interested in. I asked the questions above because I want you to personally see where you are spiritually so that if you're in the wrong mindset, you can repent and come out of it. I truly understand that sometimes, we can operate in a mindset and not even know we're outside the will of God because it's our culture... it's our day-to-day lives. Nevertheless, with God, there are no excuses. He gives us every opportunity possible to review the conditions of our own hearts. If you discover that you've been disrespectful or condescending towards women, simply repent and change your views of women. Ask God to give you a new heart and a new mind, making sure to tell Him about the way you view women. No worries; He is a forgiving God, and if you repent, He is faithful enough to forgive you for your sins. I know that there are a lot of bad women out there, but that does not take away from the fact that there are countless good and God-fearing women out there who end up paying the price for the wrongs the bad women have done. If this mindset isn't stopped, violence against women will only increase and our nation will continue to spiral downward.

"A nation which cannot ensure respect for its women, can never prosper."

~Chief Justice of India, Altamas Kabir