

Healing From Rejection of Women in Ministry

Due to Gender Bias

Chapter 1

Background

This project has great importance to this researcher's call to ministry to those who have been affected by rejection in ministry due to gender bias. This researcher was hurt by rejection and temporarily bound by its residual effects. While working through her pain this researcher desired to help others understand how to work through the pain of rejection as well.

This researcher believes that in order for those to return to a state of usefulness of God, healing must take place; thereby becoming emotionally healthy so that the pain of rejection would not alienate those that have been affected.

The body of Christ should take the lead in spiritual and emotional maturity. This project shall develop a ministry model designed to identify women that have been rejected in ministry due to gender bias.

We shall assist those identified in the healing process via Scripture and prayer. This process will aid some in identifying the pain of rejection then taking steps to heal as they move forward in ministry.

This researcher – Elder realize that she suffered from the spirit of rejection namely from treatment by spiritual leaders in the church due to gender bias. This researcher was not allowed in the pulpit with pastor after being licensed by the same pastor. Another incident while sitting under another pastor in the same arena was subjected to a message whereby the pastor smashed his thumb on the podium to show how men are to keep women under control. On the other hand, an apostle commented, “It is our wives that do not want you females in the pulpit, not us.”

Disappointed that this issue was greatly overlooked by the body of Christ claiming that there is nothing new under the sun or there was no value given to her concerns thereby isolated due to lack of support. Feeling that she was following the leading of the Holy Spirit, prepared a questionnaire to survey women to learn, in fact to prove women are rejected, denied in ministry simply because of their gender. She further desires to make sure value is give to this issue. Then women who accept and identify this concern are healed and the body of Christ made aware of this truism consequently joining efforts to stop this avenue for the spirit of rejection. Prayer is the tool to pull this spirit from the root, destroy, then rebuild and restore individuals affected back to usefulness.

Statement of the Problem

Women are affected when rejected due to gender bias in ministry. Situations such as being left in the pew while male counter parts are invited in the pulpit, being asked out of pulpit because she is not a male, being used differently, less or not at all; even being referred to as Evangelist rather than minister or Pastor when male counter parts are being recognized appropriately. These scenarios exist according to females this researcher has interviewed and in instances experienced as well. The church should be in position to address this situation whereby males and females are treated equally based on abilities rather than gender.

A model for healing from rejection due to gender bias is very much needed. This process can serve as a welcome tool to restoration. The mindset to view gender before the gifting within her as a bias for ministry still exists. This project will increase awareness of this injustice and move forward in embracing those affected by rejection due to gender bias. As residuals are addressed, some are helped to heal and become more useful to the kingdom.

Women think and feel many negatives about themselves and about ministry after rejection due to gender bias. Rejection due to gender bias can cause a woman to feel disrespected, cast off, or thrown away. Rejection due to gender bias can leave women feeling disappointed, overlooked, taken for granted and angry.

Therefore, the problem is a need to increase awareness of rejection due to gender bias, its affects, as well as Scriptural ways to address rejection God's way. The church needs to be willing to allow for healing in such instances.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to facilitate healing of rejection due to gender bias through increasing knowledge of the affects of instances and moving forward in correcting the offence as well as take care of the individual post rejection due to gender bias.

There are two main objectives associated with this study:

1. To teach skills for coping with rejection in ministry due to gender bias and
2. To teach behaviors for moving forward in service despite rejection ministry due to gender bias.

We strive to be a part of an on-going healing process that should be ever present in the church.