

# Healing From Rejection of Women in Ministry

## Due to Gender Bias

### Chapter 1

#### Background

This project has great importance to the special call to ministry to those who have been affected by rejection in ministry due to gender bias. Some have been hurt by rejection and temporarily bound by its residual effects. While working through pain a desire developed to help others understand how to work through the pain of rejection as well.

Some believe 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.

It has been proven that some women suffered from the spirit of rejection namely from treatment by spiritual leaders in the church due to gender bias. For instance there was a situation where in a female minister 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."

It is disappointing that this issue is greatly overlooked by the body of Christ. There is no value given to this concern thereby isolating those affected due to lack of support. Following the leading of the Holy Spirit, a questionnaire was prepared to survey women to learn, in fact to prove women are rejected, denied in ministry simply because of their gender. We desire 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 that were interviewed. 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 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 body of Christ.

## Definitions of Terms

Healing – The process of making or becoming sound or healthy again.

Rejection – The dismissing or refusing of proposal, idea etc.

Gender bias – The spinning of a person’s affections, and unfair difference in the treatment of men or women because of their sex.

Research finds that rejection affects intelligence, reason, and more.

1. Rejection piggybacks on physical pain pathways in the brain. fMRI studies show that the same areas of the brain become activated when we experience physical pain. This is why rejection hurts so much (neurologically speaking).<sup>1</sup> In fact our brains respond very similarly to rejection as our brains do to physical pain.

### Assumptions

This project proceeds from several assumptions. One, that a seminar with one speaker is effective means for presenting basic information on rejection due to gender bias to women.

Two, that the presenter and her material will increase knowledge about rejection from a Biblical perspective, particularly concerning women.

Three, the information presented during presentation will increase awareness of the concern of e rejection due to gender bias and its Scriptural solutions.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Squeaky Wheel* 10 *Surprising facts about rejection* by Guy Winch Th.D., July 3, 2013 *Psychology Today*

Four, the project can lead to greater emotional health in individuals in the church, the body of Christ and in society as a whole,

#### Limitations of Study

One, Healing and deliverance comes through the Holy Spirit only. Man is a mere vessel of God's grace. Two, you must be open to the power of the Holy Spirit in order to receive. Three, some have not gotten beyond the label of pettiness in regards to rejection due to gender bias. While healing can take place within an initial time of prayer some individuals may need more care such as Christian Counseling or Biblical Counseling to help move towards healing, deliverance and restoration to wholeness thereby returning to a state of usefulness of God.

The probability of men being rejected due to gender bias in the ministry is not as likely since leadership in the pastoral capacity tend to be yet predominantly male, however the principles associated with healing from rejection is definitely transferable to men.

## Delimitations

The only audience interviewed will be male for the purpose of this project. While men are affected by rejection, we will hold to surveying women so that our results will be true to responding to the question in this particular project.

## Importance of the Study

Encouraging those to move forward in service and life after being affected by rejection due to gender the bias in ministry is crucial. The church and body of Christ as a whole will benefit greatly since there will be an increase in number of laborers as well as more healed, and ready for service.

## Research Methodology

Multi-methods will be used for this project. After the initial interview to gather information proving that a person has experienced rejection due to gender bias. Prayer will be offered and counseling if necessary. In the event a group is ministered to a message of hope will be presented after a brief survey.

## References

Winch, Guy Th.D. 2013. *The Squeaky Wheel: 10 Surprising Facts About Rejection, Psychology Today.*