

Chapter 20: “Questions about Men”

Excerpt from my book due to be self published in September of 2009.

"Men Don't Heal, We Hoe" - *A Book About the Emotional Instability of Men.*

Question #5: When is it the right time to tell a man that you love them?

Granny described to me what pain was. She said that if I kept going in and out of her house sooner or later that screen door was going to catch me and it was going to hurt. I listened, I shook my head yes, but I had no idea what she was talking about. Inside, outside, inside, outside, inside to get a drink, on the way back outside the screen door caught my hand in the door! I couldn't move. I cried for Granny to come and help. Maybe Granny was old, but it seemed like she was taking her time getting to me. When she released me from the door she said “I told you it was going to be painful didn't I? Go on outside and rub some dirt on your hand.

Mom warned me that the stove was hot, but I have never tasted a hot cookie, so when I saw the cookies in the stove and I went for it! Burnt my whole forearm! I didn't even get a cookie after all that.

Dad told me that it was cold outside, but I was down the street and around the corner before I believed him. He drove by and showed me my jacket in the window and then sped off.

No matter what I was told, I could not be taught about things that I had to feel. I could not learn about pain or understand it, I had to feel it. Hot and Cold were words until I was burned or until a chill ran through my body. I had to learn about love through the same method, through

experience. It wasn't until a woman broke my heart that I understood what love was. We had been telling each other for years that we loved each other, but it wasn't until my marriage was over that I knew what love was. I had to experience the feeling of not being loved when I thought was being loved to understand what love was. I had to miss it first. Once I missed it, I felt it. Then I knew what it was.

I have dated and loved (I think I loved them) multiple women. Only one time have I told a woman that I loved her first and that heifer didn't love me back. (You know who you are. I hate you, still.) Since my freshman year in college maybe 20 women have told me that they loved me. Looking back, each and every woman told me that they loved me too soon. Each woman was so caught up in their emotions that they were not in touch with mine. I didn't even know what love was and here is a woman telling me that she loved me. That's the first problem with women blurting out that they love a man so quickly.

Women should setup some parameters before allowing themselves to love. Women have to stop themselves from following in love with men that are not interested in loving you back. I have had women tell me that they loved me when they knew that I was in love with other women, when they knew I was in another relationship, when they knew they didn't have a chance in hell to be with me. If you know that a man is involved with some one else, you have to say to yourself, "Self, don't love him. This is not good for me. I deserve better. I deserve some one who will love me back."

At least make sure that the man that you chose to love, knows what love is before you run off

telling him that you love him. Check and see if he has loved before. If so, check and see if he has had his heart broken. If he has had his heart broken, chances are, he at least knows what love is.

Love can no longer be simply a feeling or an emotion. It has to be an object, it has to be tangible and measurable. It has to be something that you give some one else because of some thing that they give to you, not because of some thing that they do to you or for you. If I am giving you my love, you have to at least be a good friend. You have to at least respect and honor me. You have to at least be interested in building a future with me. You have to at least know me, I mean, really, really know me.

Parameter #1: You have to at least know me for me to love you.

Speaking of knowing me, I have had multiple women love me before knowing me. How is that possible? If you only love what you know about me, shouldn't you wait to love me until you know the rest of me? You can't love part of me, you have to love the whole of me, the good and the bad. Let's assume that your love interest is not perfect. What you know of him maybe perfect in your eyes so far, but he is not perfect. Wait until you know his flaws before you tell him that you love him. I have had women tell me within 30 days that they loved me. Each time, I smiled and let them know that it was really cool that they loved me. But at no time did them loving me effect or change my actions or feelings. You know what, that sounds like a second parameter. Don't love a man that you know your love means nothing to or won't have a positive impact on. You have to ask yourself truthfully "Does me loving him change any thing between us?"

Parameter #2: My love has to mean something to you.

Parameter #3: Cherish your own love.

I never understood why women were in such a rush to tell men that they loved them any way. If you love a man, you are making the assumption that your relationship with said man will continue for some undetermined amount of time with the possibility of building something long term, correct? So he is going to be in your life tomorrow right? If they are in your life tomorrow, wait and tell 'em that you love 'em tomorrow or next week or next month or next year. Don't give your love to a man that is not your man. Cherish your own love. Make him earn it. Besides, men don't care about a woman telling them that they love them any way. We are not moved. We are not impressed. Here is a Top Ten List of items I rather hear from my woman that mean more to me than her telling me that she loves me:

1. I will never leave you.
2. I got your back
3. I trust you.
4. I respect you.
5. You are a good man.
6. You are a good father.
7. I believe in you.
8. You are the best lover!
9. Your mother must be proud.
10. Time passes by so quickly when I am with you.

Once you have said all that to me, then tell me you love me. Love is a word to men. Know that

when you tell a man you love him, you are just saying words, they are all the same, you could have just said that you really like him or that he is a really cool guy and it would have the exact same effect.

So when in doubt, don't tell a man that you love him, just do it. Show him love. Some men still don't know what love is. I just met a guy the other day, 52 years old and was still learning about love and how to feel and give love. He wasn't loved by his parents as a child and was given up as an orphan. He got into trouble early and served many years in prison. He got out of prison and had no family. He kept to himself and worked the night shift. Finally, at the age of 52, he met some one he didn't want any thing from him, a person that did not want him to change, he met some one who loved him just the way he was. Some men don't know what love is. I say, show him love first. Once he shows you that he appreciates your love, then maybe, if you just have to say something, you can tell him that you love him. Remember this, your words mean something to you, your actions mean something to him.

Parameter #4: Show love first, say it later.

Parameter #5: The person you love, has to know what love is.

P.S. - If you can't show him love first, you don't love him, you just want to say it. Save it. Keep it moving.