

## GLIMPSES

### Rejectionable

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Our campus here at Creighton University is safe and secured by many cameras and Public Safety personnel. Here's something I have observed in my many years at Creighton. Male students most often walk alone, unless accidentally meeting up with a friend going to the same class or residence. Female students, and not for security, most often walk with one or two female friends, unless by accident she meets up with a male who just might conveniently be heading in the same direction.

On the running/walking track in the gym, women most often walk or run with a female companion, men usually alone listening to self-insulating earphones. I facilitate groups of senior-students, men and women, learning the art of reflection. The male students almost never mention the importance of friends, friendship, relationships or their fears of being not accepted or rejected. These are frequently subjects for the reflections of the women.

I have noticed that telephone conversations between men are more of a business nature, even if making fishing or golfing plans. Women often linger, even if there is a main business topic initiating the call. I believe that it is not that women need to talk more than men. The truth is men often stifle their need to be known. Women are more honest about the basic human desire to be honored by inclusion. Men often stifle that need until some intruder breaks through and in various ways and informs him that he too has been living with a deep desire to belong. When he allows that truth to melt him, he begins to know of love.

The Hebrew Scriptures, for the most part, center the reality of God's not rejecting God's creation and God's holy family. A long list can be compiled of God's saying, "Do not be afraid. I am with you." The Christian Scriptures continue that faithful revelation speaking to our basic longing to belong. As a man I am into production, efficiency, outcomes and time-management. As a man who prays, I am constantly learning to get in touch with the basic deep-down human desire to be

wanted, accompanied, known and loved and not for what I produce, contrive or arrange.

God of course is neither male nor female, but I think God relates to what is most basic to our being human. All of us would rather be heard reverently than fixed efficiently. Prayer is being found, walked-with, reverently quieted. When we pray, we often want to get something done and pretty darn quick! To spend time unprofitably is injudicious, unprofitable and expensive. Prayer can tend to be a business transaction.

Prayer is something more relational, reverent and very much like walking/talking in the gym. It is an experience of belonging based on the deep desire for an intimate self being met by an intimate other. God is more with us than we are to ourselves and productivity, outcomes, business will happen later. Prayer is the lingering, the being found with no other outcome planned or desired. Prayer, as with God, is not male or female. Prayer has invited my fears of abandonment and rejection to rise in my soul. This has allowed me to pray more as a whole person enjoying being found, accepted, blest and distributed. As humans together, women and men, we will enjoy prayer more if we realize how deeply rejection, abandonment are in our hearts. It is a God-given gift to all of us. It is only a glimpse and please don't reject it.