

# Lesson 4.

## RELATIONSHIPS WITH MEN

*Know the difference between a man and a boy.*

*~ David A. Dixon*

*Never allow someone to be your priority while allowing yourself to be their option.*

*~ Unknown*

Now let's make a drastic turn and talk about men. Whew! I almost can't stand the thought of getting into this. Anyway, baby, let's start at the beginning: YOU. You are the most important thing you will ever have in life. Period. Bar none! Now, do not misunderstand. This fact isn't meant to make you feel like you are better than everyone else, or prettier, or smarter, etc. No, that line of thinking would be entirely missing the point. What I'm saying is: You must be able to love, value, and appreciate yourself, before you can love, value, and truly appreciate anyone else, or for that matter, have them truly love, value, and appreciate you. With that said, here are my thoughts about men and relationships.

1) ***Demand respect.*** All the time. Any man who disrespects you, does not care for you. If a man is disrespectful to you, then he doesn't need to be with you. End of story.

## 2) ***Recognize a dog!***

A dog is a dog is a dog. Some dogs are big, some dogs are little. Some dogs are cute, some aren't. Some are white, others are black. Some come from rich, well-bred bloodlines, others come from stank-broke, dirt-poor bloodlines. **BUT THEY ARE ALL DOGS!** No matter how you see them; dressed up in nice outfits or tied up in a backyard to a tree, they are still dogs. Do



you feel me? Every one of them will still piss on a fire hydrant given the opportunity. You can clean a dog up and make him smell real nice, but he's still a darn dog. I'm sure you are smart enough to "read" between the lines on this one. But I'll sum it up in a brief sentence: YOU, KENADI NICOLE DIXON, were raised like a "lady" with the expectation that you become a lady. And real ladies don't get into relationships with dogs. Enough said!

3) *Never get involved with a man that doesn't get along with his mother.*

If he has serious issues with her, he'll have serious issues with you. Trust me. I'm thirty-nine years old. In my entire life, looking back, there are only two men that I know who had issues with their mothers and still managed to treat women with respect and integrity. Now, there are extreme cases in which poor relationships with mothers may be justified. A few of which could be; an abusive mother, one who is strung out on drugs, or conniving. These may be valid reasons for men not having a close relationship with their mothers. But generally speaking, these are definitely exceptions to the norm.

4) *Date guys that come from your same socio-economic background.*

This is something that your grandmother told me



to do (with women, of course).

5) *Date guys who have the same spiritual beliefs as you do.*

It will save you lots of conflict and, hopefully, when you both die, you'll end up in the same place. Heaven.

6) *Date guys who have the same values and belief system as you do and who want the same things out of life.*

I have an expression: "I'm headed west; if you aren't at least headed northwest or southwest, I'm not going to fool with you." Any other direction is taking me away from the general direction I'm headed in. If you are doing drugs, I can't be bothered with you. I'm trying to grow brain cells, not destroy them. Understand? I don't mind reaching back and trying to turn someone around who is headed in the wrong direction, but I'm only reaching back to turn them in the direction I'm going. I can't afford to walk with them in that other direction, because it isn't my direction. If they can't turn around and start heading in the direction I want to go, then they leave me no choice but to let them go.



7) ***Date a guy who makes you feel special and happy; like you are the only woman in the world who matters to him.***

However, do not get this confused with obsession.

8) ***Date a guy who has “trust” as one of his key values.***  
Trust is the foundation for any relationship. If you can't trust him, don't get with him! If you date or marry a man who doesn't strongly feel this way, I guarantee he will cheat on you. You don't need that. You can't afford that, especially with so many sexually-transmitted diseases these days.

9) ***Date a man with integrity and a strong work ethic and a strong sense of family.***

A man who will do the “right thing” when push comes to shove, not take shortcuts. Because a man who will take shortcuts will ruin himself in the long run. And if you are married to him, he can ruin you, too.

***10) I want you to marry a good man.***

That overrides skin color any day. Good men do come in every color. I want you to marry or date someone that you truly care about or love, and who truly cares about and loves you. If you have those things and the other nine above, then you all will be fine.



**11) *Baby, as a rule, do not give men money!***

Look, anyone can get a man who's broke. Anyone. Your responsibility in this life is to take care of you. It isn't to take care of a man. If your other sisters want to take care of men, fine. That's their choice, but don't make it yours. I didn't raise you to take care of a man. I may be old school, but it is a man's responsibility to take care of a woman. I know times are changing and plenty of women make more money than men. That's okay. But just because you make more than your man, doesn't mean you need to take care of him. He should be doing the best he can for himself with what he makes and should not be dependent on you. Don't fall for that.

There is nothing wrong with assisting someone, growing with someone, and having some "give and take" in a relationship, but when it becomes an expectation that your money is for his use, then something has clearly gone wrong. And if you, my love, buy into that man's expectation that your money is his money, then something has clearly gone wrong with your mind and I would suggest you seek immediate professional help.

**12) *Think long and hard before you decide to give yourself to a man.***

You know what I mean by "yourself". I mean your body. Your body is a treasure. A beautiful treasure that



God gave you for your existence in this world. Look at all He went through to create you. Your body is self- healing, it is flexible, it is complex, it is a work of pure genius, and a work of art. The human body is amazing. I want you to think about this before you give yourself to some man. I want you to listen closely to this and to feel this next thing I'm going to share with you. Here it is: if you give a man your body, he can get your mind and if he can get your mind, he can get your money. It's that simple. I've seen this happen time and time again. Do not let it happen to you. Don't fall for these fast, sweet-talking guys when they start trying to date you. I don't care what some young man says about how much he loves you and cares for you. The chances are, that at ages 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, if you can't keep your clothes on and you do not act responsibly, you will get some type of STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease) or become pregnant, and I can pretty much guarantee you that the guy will no longer be around. If you don't believe me, just ask several women you know if any of them are with the same guy they dated in high school. Ask your mother about it. Ask those who had kids in high school if the fathers of their children helped support them or stayed with them. Ask. Don't take my word for it, feel free to ask. Knowledge is power.

