As I Am

Being a woman in America is hard. Living in a constant inferior state to males is tiresome. Constant unrealistic standards, shame, and hate comes with being a woman in the twenty-first century. However, the sisterhood that women share is a never ending support system that is crucial to shaping strong women.

Women are looked at as objects by males. Cat-calls are yelled as they walk the street. This often happens before most women reach college. Imagine inappropriate comments being yelled at a sixteen year old as she walks home from school. Think about how that shapes her as a person. It teaches young girls that they are wanted for their bodies, looks, and beauty. It shapes the young generation in the worse way possible. This constant cycle of women being objectified for sex is being imposed on young women. However, can you blame the men? Can you blame males for acting upon seeing a beautiful woman? They obviously have no control over it. If the women do not want to be yelled at tell them to cover up and be more modest. They are asking for attention by the way they dress. Questions like these are unjustifiable. They should never be asked to a victim and the victim is never at fault. This idea of blaming a victim creates shame on women when they are abused. It keeps stories of abuse locked up and keeps women in a state of inferiority.

Blaming the victim is especially prevalent in sexual assault cases. Leading questions are often used to make the victim feel guilty or responsible. Why didn’t you say no? Why didn’t you get up and walk away? What were you wearing? Why did you not stop drinking? Women are blamed for being assaulted because they were asking for it in one way or another. Being a woman often comes with this idea of slut shaming, which is where the victim is put at fault for her assaults. Slut shaming is an epidemic in America that allows males to continue to rationalize assault and subsequently support the idea of assaulting women.

A new growing moment is teaching America, young women, and males that the way a woman is dressed does not suggest that she is looking for any type of attention. This movement is also teaching society that modesty does not necessarily mean self respect. Being a woman a stigma is placed that self respect comes with modest dress and behavior. Whereas, males can wear and act how they please. The idea of acting and dressing “lady like” is often imposed on women, epically at a young age. However, the times have changed. Self respect now equals loving your skin and embracing oneself. This includes wearing or not wearing a bra, having long or short hair, tattoos or no tattoos, any type of clothes, and even a lack of clothes. A woman can wear whatever she wants to wear and still love and respect herself. Letting others define self worth as a tight air box definition that restricts and limits freedom of women is no longer. The times have changed and now women are getting the support to be free.

Being a woman is awesome. Women are strong, intelligent, creative, caring, loving, and powerful. Yes it comes with challenges, but women help and support each other. The common core foundations we all posses as women allow us to have a bond of sisterhood that no one can ever experience. The sisterhood helps grow and shape young women into strong, beautiful women.