

HOW WE ARE WITH OTHERS

"It is up to us to take responsibility for our lives and our own right to equality... and as we do, the walls of gendering will come tumbling down."

There are many of groups like ALANON, Co-Dependents Anonymous, etc., attended by women, who've come to realize that, by trying again and again to 'fix' their husbands or lovers, they were, in fact, "enabling them." The realization of enablement behavior is vastly different from stopping it. Many women enable their partners because they are unable to use their personal power to set healthy boundaries. They over identify with their partner's problems as if it was their own. This over identification absorbs them like a sponge absorbs water. This is a good time to remember that we come to relationships with an unhealthy willingness to dedicate ourselves to our loved ones without reservations. As little girls, we are given toys that prime us for the role of caregiver. We are given dolls, irons, cups, saucers, kitchens, etc., simulating our role as caregivers. When our 'play' becomes 'real' we struggle to protect our own identify because the way we play indicates how we will live. This socialization of our play is destructive. Although our personal identity is always evolving, the journey of evolvment is halted when our personal power is challenged by someone we love. Our devotion to be relational can too often become sacrificial. Without intention, we become partners in a dysfunctional relationship, and we struggle to survive. Neither society, nor women themselves, have any understanding of the price we pay to fulfill the role of "mother." We ignore the vague restlessness kept dormant deep within our souls. We become fragmented and exhausted as the world feeds on the breast of our motherhood. Now is the time for us to understand that it is not our mission to absorb the dissatisfactions of a world starved for love. It is time for us to recognize our own need to be loved.