

FEMINISM PART 3.

In the two previous articles we very briefly looked at some of the history and different philosophies of feminism. I gleaned these from many different sources and so do not claim of myself to have originally thought up those things. In this last article I will bring the subject into the sphere of the Bible and try to show what God thinks on the issue and how Satan was the one who brought in the “crooked thinking” on the subject.

Now we have said that that even though Feminism was in part a reaction to the way men have treated women over the ages; it is not, however, how God ordained the relationship between the sexes. Both men and women are culpable since both if they are not obeying God in this area are plainly in the wrong. So let us now look into God’s word and see what is to be done and how God set up the relationship.

In (Genesis 1:26), God says: “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness; and let **them** rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” Then in (verse 27), we read: “And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created **them**.”

The first thing we are to notice here is the fact that God created man (Hebrew **Adam**) and that He created male and female (Both are called Adam in Genesis 1:26 by the pronoun “**them**.”). From this point there follows a very important implication and that is this. Both the male and the female here have an *IDENTICAL INTRINSIC VALUE BEFORE GOD*. In this point there is absolutely no difference whatsoever between a man and a woman. Further this is an essential equality between the sexes, God given and unbreakable.

How do we know this? We know it because of (1) the creative act, (2) in our time, the Christian age, the gospel is equally for male and female, (3) Christ died for both the man and the woman, (4) the church was established as the place of salvation for both the man and the woman. Therefore the intrinsic value of the man and the woman are equal in the sight of God and that fact must be noted and respected by all men and women in order to be pleasing to God and faithful to His word. This has further implications as to how we are then to treat each other also.

The difference between men and women is one of a chain of authority instituted by God Himself. Both men and women are under the authority of God and His word; but women in turn are under the authority of the man, further children are under the authority of their parents. Thus we have a chain of command. God>man>woman>child. This chain was set up by God and not by man or woman or children. Now it seems that most feminists accept the fact that children are under their authority in the home thus they understand what a chain of authority is but many refuse to accept that they themselves are also under authority of both God and man, fathers and then husbands when they marry and at all times under the authority of God. So the feminists understand the concept of being under authority per sé.

Now if we go back to Eden we see that the problem from the very beginning was a lack of respect for as well as an abdication of this chain of authority; and from this sin entered the world and the problems for mankind (Heb. Adam) i.e., both men and women began which has now escalated to include the Feminist's disrespect for proper God commanded authority in regard to sexual differences and so called equality which is not of the intrinsic kind.

In (Genesis 2:16-17), God commanded the male not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the penalty for doing so was death (separation from God through sin). Then in (Genesis 3:2-3), It is implied in the text that the man had relayed that command to the woman since she knew that she was not allowed to eat from that tree. So it appears that we have God telling the male who in turn told the female "do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or you shall surely die." Now here is the chain of command in action, God>man>woman. Up to this point it was working exactly as it should have been and no problems were encountered.

Enter Satan. In (Genesis 3:4-5), he begins to undermine the chain of authority by (a) calling God a liar and (b) claiming that God is full of pride. These two things are in fact the very essence of Satan's nature. At any rate, Eve was utterly deceived by Satan and we see this in (I Timothy 2:14); "For it was not Adam (male) who was deceived, but the woman (Adam female) being quite deceived fell into transgression."

This is perhaps one reason why women are said to be "the weaker vessel" Be that as it may we do read in (I Peter 3:7), "You husbands like wise ***live with your wives in an understanding way as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honour as a fellow heir of the grace of life so that your prayers may not be hindered.***"

Notice here again the equal intrinsic value the husband is to place on the wife so that his prayers are not hindered. Now for the woman she is to look back at (verse 6) here she is told to “Do what is right without being frightened of any fear since you are Sarah’s children.” Here we see where in part the feminist have gone wrong and in many ways it was out of fear but it was also by not relying on God and following His chain of command fearlessly.

So Satan deceived the woman in Eden and continues to deceive the Feminists today. What Eve did was break the God ordained chain of authority given by God through the man to the woman. At the back of this was Satan who knew that once he could get that chain broken he could then cause the split between God and man and man and woman and this he managed to do. Thus Feminism is a consequence of what Satan did all those years ago. Christ, however, came and closed that gap for those men and women who obey His Gospel. Further to the problem we can add that Satan has got the children of our age to openly flout parental authority.

Adam’s part in all of this was to listen to the “authority” his wife thought she had thus abdicating the authority he had in reality. He listened to a lesser authority than that of God’s express word on the matter. He then acted on it and thus he too sinned. Here we see the consequences of turning the chain of authority on its head. The woman usurped authority, the man abdicated authority, but both denied God’s authority by disobeying it. Thus Satan entered the heart of mankind and has continued to try and undermine God’s authority by any and all means including that of Feminism.

Feminism is in fact guilty of doing exactly what Eve did in Eden. As for some men in this issue, **they are guilty of abusing the authority God has given them.** This is true in and out of the church this is evident by the way they talk to and treat women. This is as we said in the beginning why many women turn to Feminism and its philosophies. However, as we have seen in (I Peter 3:6) Their response should be to do what is right without fear that is dependent on a lot of faith and will not be easy when a man is abusing his authority. God will bring to account all men who do abuse their authority; but equally, He will bring to account all women who exceed theirs.

We must then if we are to try and heal the rift between men and women really see each other as intrinsically equal before God and yet at the same time hold to the chain of authority that God has placed on us. Remember too that it was pride that set out to change that chain of authority, Satan’s initially and then Eve’s. This was followed by Adam’s weakness in not reinforcing to his

wife what the chain of command was and the need to obey it since it was from God. Now as far as the church is concerned it is no different. In Corinth, for example, we know that there were many problems within that congregation. Pride again was at the heart of the issue and the chain of authority was again being undermined; so much so that it prompted the apostle Paul to address it. Thus in (I Corinthians 11:3) Paul wrote this: “I want you to **understand** that Christ is the head of every man, and man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.”

Here we clearly see that within the Lord’s church that same chain of authority given in Eden is still in operation and it must still be strictly adhered to. God>Christ>man>woman and that is it eternally, scripture cannot be broken and if this was really believed implicitly all problems regarding authority and gender would evaporate in and out of the church.

If a man abuses his authority over a woman he is sinning. If a woman exceeds her authority over a man she too is sinning. In all such cases *both are wrong and both will answer to God in whom all authority ultimately resides*. There is no respect of persons or gender with God since both are intrinsically equal and culpable before Him. So remember then that Feminism which exceeds authority and the male abuse of power and authority are situations in which no one wins. Therefore obey Yahweh and live.