The Woman of Christ Faces Daily Living

The Influence of Radical Feminism on Women

Matthew 19:4; Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Titus 2:5; 1 Peter 3:1-6; 1 Timothy 2:11 & 12; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Colossians 3:16

Lesson #8

As we know, women of the United States have not always had the privileges which are currently available to them. In the early years of our country, our female ancestors held little sway in politics, education, and even in matters of home and family. During the mid-1800s, women began addressing these deficiencies. There were legislative successes, so women began voting, attending universities and having more voice in creating healthy, normal homes.

In the years since, several women's campaigns have inundated society. They sought further concessions and legislation to ensure their goals. During the early 1970s, leaders of the movement met and organized as the National Organization of Women (Now).

LGBTQIA + Rights as a Core Pillar

NOW is the leading feminist organization and the largest organization of its kind in the United States. Through the efforts of its feminist activists, NOW has affected improvements for women in education and in employment. It has influenced legislation to end violence against women (http://www.now.org). However. NOW establishes LGBTQIA + rights as a core pillar (including gender identity) as well as rights to abortion (http://www.now.org/history/history.html).

This lesson will address ideology, values and actions that have impacted women. These will be specific to our womanhood. National Organization of Women (NOW) in its “Status of Women in the States” defines itself as a leader, not a follower in public opinion.

This lesson is not an attack on NOW's goals and efforts which have improved women's lives in education and in the workplace, but rather it is a focus on attitudes and additional causes which are in conflict with the scriptures. All feminists are not members of NOW. However, all NOW members are feminists, so other feminists are vulnerable to NOW’s attitudes and endorsements.

Action and activists are the way to go with many movements, and NOW has certainly made use of those tools. In its fourth year, however, an incident of far-reaching proportions occurred. Kate Millett, a leading feminist author, was challenged at a public meeting. A voice shouted from the audience, “Kate, are you a lesbian?” She hesitantly answered, “Yes.” Kate's public acknowledgement rocked the world of feminism, but those women had become very clever at meeting opposition. They arranged a rally, handed out lavender arm bands which signified lesbian support and announced publicly their support for a lifestyle which to them declared

removal of male dominance which they had identified as “patriarchy.” At the same time, they believed their acknowledged support of lesbians would ensure their freedom from a second-class status and open doors to their potential.

In support of Kate Millett. Gloria Steinem held Kate's hand while Kate read a statement which was to exonerate herself and promote lesbianism. The result of that day's proceedings was Now's acknowledged embracement of the fight for lesbian rights and equal marriages. Before a year had passed, some feminists were considering lesbians as the only true feminists, and one women's movement group stated that no more than 1/3 of its membership could be married or be living with a man. The Feminist Mistake. Mary Kassian -- quotes Barbara J. MacHaffie, Her Story, Page 124 and 126) and http://www.now.org/issues/marriage/legal_protectons.html. Yes, National Organization of Women (NOW) truly leads in public opinion!

Today many accept values which have permeated a lot of our nation’s thought processes. Memory seems to have blurred as to the origin of lesbian and homosexual rights, abortion rights and same sex marriages. Only a short time ago verbal support of lesbian, gay, transgender, same-sex marriages and abortion rights was seen by many as radical. Current thought, however, reveals a growing acceptance. God did not create another male for Adam, nor would another male have completed Adam. Neither did God create two females in the Garden of Eden. “Have you not read that He created them from the beginning – male and female?” (Matthew 19:4).

A “politically correct” society refrains from opposing homosexual and lesbian lifestyles. Have Christians also become intimidated about speaking out? Please, no politics, but it’s alarming that through apathy good people have allowed bad legislation. Do you know that state legislators remind their constituents to call or write comments to them? Some even remark that one phone call can influence their vote because there are so few contacts about upcoming votes?

Patriarchy Under Attack

During a period of organizing and getting their act together, feminists sought for words which they thought pinpointed their unhappy state. “Patriarchy” -- father rule -- seemed to fit their lack of satisfaction toward men. They blamed men for the oppression under which they struggled. Males, according to them, controlled every aspect of their lives (The Feminist Mistake, Mary Kassian, Page 27). Women who were ripe for this thinking became followers of Now's lead in public opinion. What does it mean to be “ripe for this kind of thinking”? Perhaps, it means to be unlearned in the scriptures and to be easy prey for the latest ideology. Mental preparation (Bible knowledge and development of wisdom) will help to resist the pull of society’s values and discontentment (Genesis 3:16; Ephesians 5:22-24; 1 Corinthians 11:3).

Do you recall NOW’s claim -- “We are a leader, not a follower in public opinion.”? Shortly after NOW declared “patriarchy” as their worst enemy, frequent humor on sitcoms focused on Dad as a nitwit. Some wives and children enjoyed the humor of making dad into a laughingstock and,

thereby, effectively attacked “patriarchy.” A growing attitude of disrespect for husbands and fathers emerged from this period.

Do you respect your husband? If you have come to disrespect your husband, what were the seeds of that? Does he need counseling? That’s another lesson – for men. Today, we are addressing women of Christ. It’s essential that wives conduct themselves according to the Lord’s will.

Brides began shunning the traditional wedding vow that promises to obey the husband. They asked themselves if the vow of submission was one that they opposed. Some refused to take on their husband's surname.

The woman’s life and destiny have been viewed as a prison, wherein she produces children and serves as a slave to her family. Some women equate their responsibility to their children as “having a monkey on their backs.” Many of these mothers have sought fulfillment in careers only to find that servitude to a boss can be more intolerable than what she shunned at home.

Whether we live in castles or direct the affairs of men, will have little meaning over the long haul. The sad lament of those who look back is frequently, “I wish I had spent more time with my husband; a friend; a child; or a parent.

The Church and the Gender Justice Movement

This sad statement comes from Authentic Theology: “Traditionally, mainstream churches of Christ strictly maintain an all-male leadership structure for roles like elders and deacons. However, a small number of autonomous congregations have shifted toward gender inclusive leadership.” (https://authentictheology.com)

In 2018, a California congregation appointed 2 female elders, marking a historic shift for a congregation of the Church of Christ in California (christianchronicle.org). The scriptural qualifications of elders clearly define the required gender (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9).

The demeanor of women in the worship service is regulated by 1 Timothy 2:11, 12. She is to be silent, but does this mean utter silence? Should women sing and worship in services? Answering this enables us to understand how we should comply with the injunction “to keep silent.” All that women say in the public meeting should be said from an attitude of submissiveness. We speak in our Bible classes as followers to the male lead. We speak in a quiet, submissive manner without loud, challenging remarks. In public worship, he leads the singing and we follow that lead.

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