



ADVOCATES WHO UNDERMINE

I. History of Feminism

FROM promoting the basic rights of WOMEN . . .

TO identifying the problem as MEN . . .

TO proclaiming independence as the SOLUTION!

II. Core Thinking of Feminism

1. Sameness must replace stereotypes
2. Independence must replace interdependence
3. Equal division of labor must replace a sexual division of labor.
4. Sexual liberation must replace sexual restraint
5. Careerism must replace the family as a woman's premier pursuit in life.

III. Challenge to Feminism

Genesis 1:27,28; Genesis 3; Philippians 2:1-11

1. The Design - God created humanity as male and female – distinctly different yet complimentary
2. The Problem - Humanity rebelled, resulting in confusion over identity and purpose.
3. The Provision - Jesus' mission was to restore all humanity to its original purpose through the gift of salvation.

Final Thoughts:

- ▶ In a self-oriented society, everybody loses - both the individual and the group.
- ▶ Choose your ideology carefully because you and everyone else will eventually have to live with it.

Discussion Questions:

1. From our Reflection Assignment last week: How are you different from the men with whom you live and work? How could these differences contribute to your God-intended purpose?
2. Did you hear anything today about Feminism that was “new” or surprised you?
3. What aspects of Feminism are appealing to you? Why?
4. What were the “wrongs” that Feminism has attempted to correct? Do you think they have succeeded?
5. Can you see any “wrongs” that were *created* by the Feminist Movement?
6. Identify areas of your own thinking that have been shaped by Feminist philosophy. Are you “rethinking” any of them?

Reflection Assignment:

How has the “Core Thinking of Feminism” directly affected choices you have made in the past? (Example: “Although I am skilled at teaching, in college I majored in business so I could be more financially independent.”)

Passage to Ponder this week: James 1:5

Week Four Summary...

Most of us have had the experience of hearing an argument that sounded persuasive at first, but after we heard more detail, it didn't stand up. Many movements and philosophies are like that. They sound right. On the face of things, they make sense. If we aren't careful, we can adopt those philosophies or join the movements without really looking beneath the surface. In some cases, there are philosophies and ideologies that our whole society bought in to so long ago that they are part of our culture—our conventional wisdom.

Some of us remember when the debate over Feminist Ideology was fresh and controversial. We probably participated in lively discussions on the subject. But more of us came on the scene after the debate seemed to be over. The argument was settled, and the "right side" seemed to have prevailed. Feminists had persuaded the world that men and women are EQUAL. Anyone who questioned Feminist Ideology was threatening that undeniable truth. The debate is over; anyone who tries to raise it again appears to be a bigot, or worse. Feminism presents itself as being the advocate for women, on the side of right, on the side of fairness. How can anyone question that?

According to the Bible, that's a dangerous position to take. As long as only one side of an issue is heard, that side will always "seem right." It's not until we **question** things that we gain fuller understanding. What if the advocate for women is actually undermining who we are—actually degrading our value, as women? Careful questioning exposes another side of the issue: Feminism is **not** based on the premise that men and women are EQUAL, but that they are the SAME. This premise (apart from being preposterous—we are clearly **not** the SAME) has a number of implications of which many people are unaware. For example:

- Sameness must replace stereo-types in the home and in society in general.
- Independence must replace inter-dependence as a life-style.
- Equal division must replace a sexual division of labor at home and at work.
- Careerism must replace a family as a woman's premier pursuit in life.
- Sexual liberation must replace sexual restraint as a personal value.

While some who call themselves feminists might disagree with some of these points, these *are* the teachings of the feminist movement itself. Feminism also asserts that society in general and women in particular should have **no choice** about the implementation of these ideals. Many of us have felt pressure to conform in these matters.