



volume one

issue three

Feminism Assessed

By: Nathalie Brumback

The mid-twentieth century saw a rise in what has been called the “Feminist Movement,” with authors such as Betty Friedan and her book *The Feminine Mystique* taking center stage. However, this movement’s roots actually date much further back. Late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century women were increasingly unhappy with the lack of legal standing and respect they were afforded despite being U.S. citizens. For example, women did not have the “right to vote.” Susan B. Anthony brought this fact to the forefront in the 1870s when she was arrested, tried, and found guilty of illegally voting, a civic action she thought at the time was her right (see the Fourteenth Amendment). The Feminist Movement was the outgrowth of a desire to see women afforded the same civic rights, opportunities, and protections enjoyed by men.

This time period was also one of great social change. From the Nineteenth Amendment in 1921 giving women the right to vote, to women taking on work outside the home during the Great Depression and WWII while the men were at war (Prov. 31), women found their recognized roles in society changing. With men returning from war, however, women were encouraged to return to the home. National media presented women as happy housewives, creating an image of the “ideal American home”; this was intolerable for many—Satan was hard at work redefining women’s roles and service from that which God had taught. Many women grew disillusioned with what they considered to be restricted roles after succeeding in many ways outside the home. Even those women who continued to work outside the home found themselves restricted to certain lower-level occupations and paid lower wages than their male counterparts. Women were dissatisfied with both the real inequities and the perceived limitations on their activities, and women’s rights activists began to respond. In the mid-1960s, a full boil emerged with the founding of the

National Organization of Women (NOW), formed to address the disparity between men’s and women’s educational and work opportunities, and work compensation. The legacy of such feminist agendas is a mixed bag. Women today are able to vote, have a driver’s license, own property, have an education, and have comparable work and wages as men because of the efforts of many men and women throughout the last century and a half. These are all honorable. Unfortunately, Satan used this avenue to attack God’s plans for the home and righteousness (1 Pet. 5:8). In an effort to continue to “improve” women’s lives, NOW pushed for such causes as abortion rights and women pursuing *any* roles held by men. Any occasion in which women were thought to be in a submissive or subordinated role came under intense scrutiny and attack. Of course, this submissive role is one of God’s roles for women (Eph. 5:22). And feminist causes say that just will not do.

As women we must be wise to the work of Satan and mindful of the word of God, which teaches us to be prepared and watchful (Eph. 6:11). We can appreciate the blessings we have received from those who have struggled over the last hundred years to bring us liberties we now enjoy. However, as Christians we must also balance our lives and decisions we make with sound council from God’s word. We can support causes to improve the lives of women as long as they do not contradict God’s law—if they contradict God’s law, they do not improve the lives of women. And most importantly, we must be the light to those in the world seeking with a pure heart to do the will of God (2 Tim. 2:26). You are a woman, and you have a lot of power, so use it wisely on God’s behalf. Ask yourself, why you are here—to serve yourself or God? We must learn and advocate for the roles God has given to women (e.g., Gen. 3:20; Eph. 5:21-22). Only then will we realize our full potential.

What Does the Bible Say About My Role in Life as a Woman?

By: Lori Tooley

From the beginning, women have fulfilled an important role. Eve was created for the specific purpose of being Adam's helper (Gen 2:18). The role of a wife and a mother should be cherished and never diminished. The importance of the mother can be seen in Napoleon's answer to the question "what could be done to restore the prestige of France?" to which he replied, "Give us better mothers!"

Although women and men are equal at the foot of the cross, women are excluded from leadership over men in the church (Eph. 5:22). However, without making one inferior to the other, God calls upon both men and women to fulfill the roles and responsibilities specifically designed for them, a pattern that can be seen in the Godhead (1 Cor. 11:3).

Submission and authority have become offensive terms to feminists. Authority and submission are required to have structure. Anarchy would prevail in a society without these attributes. There is no reason to think of these words as oppressive. Jesus was a great example of being a servant, obedient, and selfless. He was obedient unto death. Women have been brainwashed to believe that being a servant equates to being a doormat. Matthew Henry wrote, "Women were created from the rib of man to be beside him, not from his head to top him, nor from his feet to be trampled by him, but from under his arm to be protected by him, near to his heart to be loved by him." Paul equated Christ's love for the church to the love that a man should have for his wife. Women are to submit everything to their husbands and husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church and died for it (Eph. 5:24-25).

Throughout the bible women were active. I think of an occasion in Acts 18 when Apollos was speaking at Ephesus. He was speaking of Jesus, but only knew the baptism of John. Priscilla and Aquila took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. He went on to further the cause of Christ and refute the Jews in public. I think of Esther, a God-fearing woman. Her delivery of God's people is still celebrated by Jews today during Purim. Women today are holding bible studies, sharing the gospel, speaking at women's events, writing articles, mentoring, etc. Still others provide shelter and food for those in need. The list goes on and on.

The final thought I leave you with is this— do not allow the world to dictate your role. The Bible should always be your compass with regard to spiritual matters. The Bible is eternal and does not bow to the whim of the fashion of the day. Our role is to be the best Christian in whatever aspect of our life we find ourselves.

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

Genesis 2:18



Lori Tooley of Kokomo, Indiana moved to Austin, Texas in the early 1980's. She attended Purdue University studying Accounting and Computer Science. Lori is married to Kirk Tooley a graduate of the SWSBS class of 1998. Lori has faithfully been an help meet for Kirk and a faithful member of the Lord's church. She is the editor of the congregation's Ladies Newsletter. Writing is her forte and preferred method of serving and teaching. Kirk and Lori have been serving the Central church of Christ in Pflugerville for the last 13 years.

Words of Wisdom

How I Saw Feminism Affect Society By: Cheryl Cook

My mother Charlene and I lived through the 60's and 70's when many of the changes we see in our society due to feminism began. At the time, we didn't pay feminists and their message much attention. We were busy being followers of Christ! One of the changes we saw was some of our Christian brothers and sisters getting divorced more easily, as the laws regulating divorce were being relaxed in part because of the influence of feminism. That broke our hearts because we knew that many were violating God's word concerning marriage, divorce, and remarriage as found in Mark 10:11-12 and Matthew 19:9.

Our dear sisters in Christ, we encourage you to keep studying the Bible every day, as we are admonished to do by our elders! Keeping God's Word ever before us allows us to know how God would have us live a fulfilled life, striving to be like the "worthy woman" of Proverbs 31. "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised" (Prov. 31:29-30).

Words to Grow By

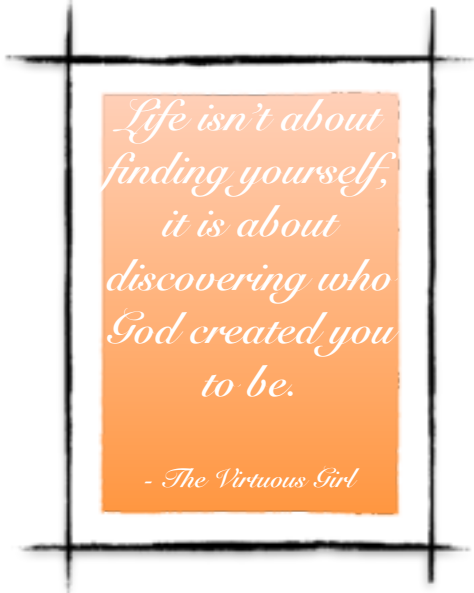
Where Do I Find *True* Happiness By: Lindsay Gerhardt

Think of all the passages on faithful women in the bible, how they are to find joy and peace, and you will find a list of ideas that radical feminists reject. Through the feminist's eyes, happiness and fulfillment come from work, an independent lifestyle, and attaining equality. When you examine their definition of equality, it is realized through the ability to lead identical lives with men. The women that this idea glorifies are ones with the same careers, roles in marriage, roles in parenting and roles in church leadership; all of which are indicators of their perceived value. But do these views on equality align with God's? If our value lies in our ability to do everything a man can do, why create us in the first place?

Galatians 3:28 teaches that there is no hierarchy of value in Christ, but that equality is not lessened by the fact that we were created for different purposes or by the fact that we are called to be subject to our husbands and church leaders. Submitting to a husband who loves us the way Christ does, as taught in Ephesians 5:22, is far from the oppressive view of godly marriage that feminism paints.

Radical feminism glorifies the independent woman who seeks herself before others, yet the bible teaches that humble service and sacrificial love is what brings fulfillment. They often hold motherhood in low esteem, but verses like Psalm 127:3, Proverbs 1:8-9 and 22:6 show the great joy in bringing up children in service to God.

If we find ourselves unsure or unsatisfied with our roles as women, let us look to Christ, where we find our purpose in life and value as a soul. Let us look to each other to teach and be taught about the joy and fulfillment that comes from being a daughter of the King. "Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. (Titus 2:3-5)



*Life isn't about
finding yourself,
it is about
discovering who
God created you
to be.*

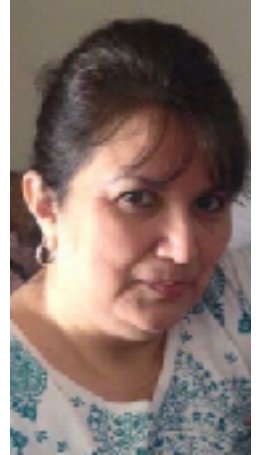
- The Virtuous Girl

Getting to Know

Getting to Know – Marie Lane By: Carol Tisdale

Our sister, Marie Lane, is a rare native Austinite! However, she has lived as far away as Okinawa, Japan; thanks to husband Rick, who served our country there in the Air Force. Marie and Rick married 30 years ago, having met while working at HEB as teenagers. He was the “produce boy” and Marie the “deli girl”!

Working presently for Texas Health & Human Services in the Office of Inspector General, Marie performs background checks & assists investigators on their criminal cases. She hasn't always worked away from home; she is grateful to have been able to stay home a bit when her two girls were very little. Speaking of her daughters, Marie beams with pride because Jennifer Grimes and Rebecca Hatchitt have grown to be lovely, faithful Christian women who married wonderful men. Two precious grandchildren have filled Marie with great joy and her love is going to grow with the expected arrival of grand-baby #3 in September! Marie adores being a grandmother and says, “I always tell my girls that God has given me a way to redeem myself from mistakes I made raising them! I say it jokingly, but it is an honor to help raise my grandchildren.”



On reflection, Marie offers thoughts to our younger women. She emphasizes the gravity of setting your priorities early on. She never actually pursued a career, but wanted to make certain she was always readily available for her family. When she did work, Marie purposefully took jobs that would not interfere with her ability to be present for worship services. She candidly shares with us that perhaps she may not have needed to take jobs outside the home if she had been a better budgeter, a better steward with the family finances. Her favorite scripture when she needs to remember to be content with what she has is *Proverbs 30:8*. As for balance in everyday life, Marie admits that managing time was an issue. There were occasions when she tried to do many things at one time, causing her to overextend and put a strain on her marriage, family, job and her Christian life. Now she is understanding how one needs to take the proper time for oneself to have a healthier balance and peace.

Now let's get to food! Marie loves to cook chicken enchiladas for family gatherings and making tamales is a family Christmas tradition. Her favorite restaurants though are “Nanami for sushi and “Im” for Thai food! Serve her Italian Cream Cake to finish that meal off!

Regarding hobbies, Marie explains that she “dabbles” in many. So much so that Rick has created boxes labeled “Marie's Forgotten Hobbies” and then he proceeds to store them away!

Getting to know Marie has been a joy. It's not surprising that it's Tabitha in *Acts 9:36* whom Marie admires; the beloved woman who was continually abounding with good works and acts of charity. She wants to strive to become...like Tabitha, but those of us who already know Marie believe she is well on her way to accomplishing that goal!

Upcoming Events

May 20th 10am - Ladies Day at Shertz COC with Jennifer O'Bannon “Growing in the Lord”
September 29-30 - Ladies Retreat in Salado, TX hosted by the Westhill COC in Corsicana, TX
with Whitney Watson speaking on the topic “Resolved” (Registration due June 30th)

About *The Upright Woman*

The Upright Woman publication is intended to educate, promote, and encourage the women of the church to strive for righteousness in every aspect of life. It is the mission of this publication to provide women an opportunity to study the word and share articles about various issues and topics to encourage us to be upright women in an upside down world.

“For the Lord is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.” Psalm 11:7

We pray that with every issue and in every article all glory is given to God.