

FEMINISM: THE ENEMY OF MEN,
FAMILY AND MOTHERHOOD

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In a self-made survey, fifty grade 12 girls were asked what they wanted to be in the future. Many responded by saying that they wanted to become a teacher, a layer, an accountant, a nurse. However, not one said that they wanted to become a mother. In a society that focuses on women's rights and empowerment, it is surprising to see the most feminine role of being a mother is looked down upon. Feminism played an important role in making women equal to men. However, modern feminism has become harmful towards men, the family and even women as it devalues the positive effects of motherhood.

Feminism has come a long way from what it is today. The first wave of feminism promoted equal rights between men and women. In 1918 the movement succeeded by granting women the right to vote¹. The second wave of feminism started in the early 1960s. This wave of feminism is known for the huge increase of women in the workforce and the legislation passed in 1963 that made it illegal for women to be paid less than men.² By the end of the 1980s feminism had achieved its goal in giving women the same rights as men both politically and economically. However, there have been new waves of feminism, the third and fourth wave, which started in the 1990s. This form of feminism continued to nurture the idea that women are oppressed and in need of liberation. It has played a big role in degrading marriage and motherhood.

¹ "Women's Suffrage in Canada," The Canadian Encyclopedia, , accessed May 07, 2019, <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/suffrage>.

² History.com Editors, "Equal Pay Act," History.com, November 30, 2017, , accessed May 07, 2019, <https://www.history.com/topics/womens-rights/equal-pay-act>.

Early feminists have achieved their goal in reaching equality with men. However, modern day feminists want to continue this movement by trying to achieve superiority over men. This is very evident in the modern school systems. Now a day's girls are seen as the perfect student because of their self-disclosure and obedience, boys on the other hand are treated like defected girls. Boys are known to be more active and energetic than girls and thus need a way to work off their energy. However, with 50% of recess time lost since the 1970's³, it is becoming harder and harder for boys to succeed in school. As a result, boys are struggling academically compared to girls at all stages of education. Feminism should not be about bringing down boys in order to elevate girls. Both sexes should be able to grow equally in success. By harming the esteem and potential of boys we are harming our future husbands and children.

Modern feminism tries to profess the idea that women do not need men or marriage. Sheila Cronin, the leader of the feminist organization NOW once said, "Since marriage constitutes slavery for women, it is clear that the women's movement must concentrate on attacking this institution. Freedom for women cannot be won without the abolition of marriage." However, the truth is that women need men just like men need women. From the begging of times men and women have always been together because they complemented and depended on one another. Men need women to civilize them and women need men to protect them. Marriage is not a form of slavery but rather place for authentic love and personal growth. In fact a survey from the Pew Research Center found that 43% married couples reported that they were "very happy," compared to only 24% of unmarried individuals⁴.

³ Albert Einstein College of Medicine, "Daily School Recess Improves Classroom Behavior", ScienceDaily, www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/01/090126173835.htm, (accessed May 7, 2019).

⁴ "Are We Happy Yet?" Pew Research Center's Social & Demographic Trends Project, February 08, 2013, accessed May 07, 2019, <https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2006/02/13/are-we-happy-yet/>.

Since women were forced to sacrifice more time at work than at home, children have been suffering. Children have been suffering from the lack of love especially during the early stages of life. Studies from the National Institute of Child Health found that children who spent a large amount of their day in daycare experienced higher stress levels compared to those who stayed home.⁵ Not only does a mother's absence affect spiritual health, but also physical health. Women used to make healthy homemade meals for the whole family. Now that women are forced to work, such luxuries are not available for every family. Many families now rely on fast food as their jobs do not allow the time to make homemade meals.

Modern feminism is not only affecting families, but also women. A few decades ago it was still possible to have a single income household. However, since 1973 it has become impossible for such a reality. This is a result of women joining the workforce in great number during the feminist movement in the 1960's. Woman entering the workforce was not a bad thing; it helped families that were having financial difficulties and gave women the freedom to choose their future. However, as more workers entered the workforce, the price for working went down to the point that it now took two people to financially sustain a household. In a short period of time, it went from the idea that women *can* work, to the idea that women *have* to work. Women were granted many job opportunities, however the most valuable and instinctive job of being a stay at home mother was stripped away. Feminism has pushed the idea that women can only be happy in a professional career. The role of wife, mother, and homemaker was mercilessly attacked and belittled.

⁵ "Preschool Stress," What Causes It, and How Can We Help Kids? , accessed May 07, 2019, <https://www.parentingscience.com/preschool-stress.html>.

I personally would love to be at stay at home mother. Being the oldest of four siblings I got to see how rewarding and important it is to be a mother. Unfortunately, in today's society that is next to impossible. What more, the so called feminists that claim to be fighting for women's right are doing nothing to help me achieve my dream. In 1976, the French feminist icon Simone de Beauvoir said, "No woman should be authorized to stay home to raise her children. Women should not have that choice, because if there is such a choice, too many women will make that one." Motherhood is a beautiful gift that is very fulfilling for women. However, feminism is trying to separate women from their femininity and burden them with male obsessions. Feminism has made motherhood a social taboo and has caused many women to be ashamed of their desire to be a mother.

What modern feminists did not expect was that a women's desire to have children was far greater than any social construct. Take for example female lawyers. Over the past few decades there has been a great increase in the amount of female lawyers. This makes a lot of sense since women are very smart, and they excel academically. However, with a work heavy career comes many responsibilities. Being a lawyer is a very high stress job; it requires working over 70 hours a week in a very competitive environment. There is no doubt that women are capable of being lawyers. However, data from the United States Census Bureau shows that after the age of 30 there are less and less female lawyer⁶. This is not a result of women oppression, but rather women choosing to leave this field. Generally, around the age of 30 many women are married, and they start to realize that keeping such a high demand job is pointless since together with their husband they make a desirable amount of money. They realize that there is more to life than

⁶ Haya El Nasser, "Number of Women Lawyers At Record High But Men Still Highest Earners," The United States Census Bureau, September 18, 2018, , accessed May 07, 2019, <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2018/05/women-lawyers.html>.

money and therefore switch to a less demanding job so that they can focus on starting a family. It is very rare, if a woman at age 30 does not consider having a child as her primary goal. There are some women that do not want to have kids because they have a masculine temperament; however that is not the average women. Feminism has been setting women up to believe that their career will ultimately determine their happiness, however in their later years women are discovering the filling role of motherhood.

Despite the feminist movement we see everywhere; there are more and more women that are choosing motherhood. They are realizing how fulfilling it is to be a mother. They are going against the new feminine movement and finding true empowerment in their natural femininity. I hope that my generation will create a new feminism, one that does not aspire to create women into men, but one that embraces our true femininity and motherhood.

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