

The Role of Men and Women in Abortion

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The Role of Men

The core of being a man is reflecting God, the Creator of the Universe. We are all created with a desire to know God. St. Augustine said, "You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." While both men and women are made in the image of God, men and women each have unique and distinct God-given roles, and each reflect to varying degrees different attributes of God.

Godly men are created to reflect Christ with an unselfish willingness to lay down our lives for others, the courage to stand against oppression and injustice and a willingness to be a protector of the weak. Men are to lead, guide, protect and model moral Godly behavior. When Men are obedient to fulfill their God-given role, all the Earth is blessed. Fellow countrymen can be at rest, knowing that men of God stand prepared to act on their behalf. Wives feel loved and secure and are encouraged to be the women of God He intended them to be. Daughters feel loved and protected and have no need to find security in arms other than their fathers, and boys are brought up seeing an example of Godliness in their fathers and - wanting to be like their fathers - grow up to be Godly men.

E.G. White wrote, *"The greatest want of the world is the want of men - men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall."*

God created men in His image. To create, to protect, to multiply. Godly men can have the greatest impact on their wives, sons and daughters. Men, single or married, can have an immeasurably positive impact on our society and culture.

The Bible talks about the "men of Issachar," who *"understood the times and knew what Israel should do."* We are called to be men who understand our times and know what we should do. As men, we must 'stand in the gap' on behalf of the weakest, as Jesus did, because the devaluation of life always attacks the weakest among us: the unborn, the sick, the handicapped, the weak, the elderly, orphaned, the marginalized, the infirmed. Men must stand up for the weakest because we can. Ability to act implies a responsibility to act.

As leaders, men of God, Priests and spiritual warriors, it is Men's role and calling to stand in the gap. We are not only to be warriors, but Holy warriors! The enemy knows this and will do all in his power to prevent us from becoming men of action. Tozer says, "...*The devil's master strategy for us is not to kill us physically but to destroy our power to wage spiritual warfare.*" And one of his primary methods of distracting us from our role as Godly men is getting us to misuse our sexuality. The misuse of sex has ruined countless lives, toppled kingdoms and caused the death of hundreds of millions.

From Samson to David to today's headlines, male followers of God are seldom prepared to deal with sexual temptation. A man who is unprepared to deal with sexual temptation is a man who is in great danger of falling into sexual sin. A man who is carrying around with him the baggage of unconfessed, unforgiven, sexual immorality is a man who is not likely to be waging spiritual warfare.

One of the primary consequences of sexual immorality is unplanned pregnancies and subsequently, abortion. Pastor Scotty Vaughn says that "*fathers are supposed to die for their children, not the other way around.*" And yet today, an estimated 56 million unborn babies die by abortion every year - killed because their fathers did not care, or were not allowed to care.

Abortion undermines who we are as men. The act of abortion undermines the very soul of masculinity. It allows us to abandon the children we were created to protect to a horrible destruction and take sexual advantage of the women we were created to defend. How are we as men to respond? First, by embracing a holy lifestyle in regards to sex, and second, by disciplining and encouraging others to be Godly men themselves.

Our culture has been very successful at discouraging men from participating in the abortion and sanctity of human life debate. "It's a woman's body, so it's a woman's issue. You have no say in the matter." NOTHING could be further from the truth. If men are to reclaim their role of being defenders and protectors and providers, it must start with the most important issue of our lifetime. The issue of life itself. When it comes to the sanctity of human life, men should be at the forefront, providing leadership to the Christian response to the Global Abortion Holocaust and the culture of death.

Ephesians 5:11 says, "*Take no part in unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.*" Unfruitful works of darkness. Just what does that mean? Unfruitfulness speaks of sterility - lacking life, or leading to death. Works of darkness means it does not come from the mind of God, but from the mind of the evil one. Satan is the father of lies and

murder and death. As men, we are to have no part in evil, sinful behavior. Quite the opposite - we are to expose unfruitful works of darkness. In fact, we are *commanded* to do so.

We must realize that Satan uses our God-given sexual urges to set traps that often defeat us time after time. The sexual attack is one that comes against us 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I encourage you to take on this attack with a powerful Biblical counter-attack. The process of equipping, encouraging and educating men to take their role at the forefront of restoring the sanctity of human life and Biblical human sexuality needs to be an on-going, core aspect of the Church.

The Church needs men to become like David's Mighty Men - servant-warriors who are attracted to the person of Christ and committed to the cause of Christ. When men embrace their God-given roles, leading from their knees, confessing their sins one to another and bearing each other's burdens, they become a formidable force for good.

The Role of Women

The core of being a woman is reflecting God, the Creator of the Universe. Women, like men are created with a desire to know God, and reflect God's attributes. Generally speaking, while there is some overlap with men and women in the attributes of God they reflect, there are still many that are distinct to being a woman. These include a strong desire to give and nurture life, sensitivity and intuition. Feminine does not mean weak.

When women are obedient to fulfill their God given role, they embrace and stand in their rightful place in the Universe. As a result, those around them benefit from the sense of peace and understanding that flows from being in God's perfect plan. Husbands feel empowered and confident to fulfill the purpose the Lord has for them. The home is peaceful. Sons and daughters feel secure.

Proverbs 31:10-31 says, *"A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her"*.

The choices women make and patterns they develop can be traced back to the influences early in their life. Although some young girls learn about their sexuality in a healthy manner from their parents and church, more often than not they learn - just as young boys do - in an unhealthy manner from the world.

The world is such a broken place - especially in developed nations - that fewer and fewer children are growing up in a home with a mother and father who are married and committed to each other. It is even more rare for a young girl to learn about sexuality in a healthy manner from her parents. But sexuality (or its misuse) IS taught by the secular world.

Young girls see sexuality being modeled from a very early age through all the media they consume. They see a fixation on breasts and airbrushed pictures of impossibly beautiful women with movie-star makeup and hair, and they see the positive attention that brings to a woman's life. And in a young girl's mind, the link is created between sexuality and beauty, and between beauty and happiness.

The message that is being sold is that you should use your sexuality as a tool or weapon and that it can bring you everything you need, including happiness. Everything a young girl sees and hears from the time they are toddlers focuses on the need to be pretty, and using their looks to get what they want. If you go into a pre-teen section of a retail store and spend a few minutes looking around, you will see that even a young girl's clothing and underwear have a sexual tinge to them. Dolls, children's TV shows, clothing, magazines, music, the internet, computer games - all have a strong sexual component.

This sexual influence, if left unchallenged, can shape the way our daughters see themselves and can impact their entire life. And it is a lie. Beauty will not bring happiness. "Beauty is fleeting..." Young women are being set up for disappointment when they are told to live their life using their beauty, femininity and their body to influence those around them in order to accomplish their goals.

Often this disappointment leads to a cycle of promiscuity, in a never-ending quest to find love and fulfillment in the wrong places and in the wrong people. Looking for love in all the wrong places often leads to a life filled with sexually transmitted diseases and drugs, self-loathing, food addictions, weight gain or loss and abuses like bulimia and anorexia. So often, these behaviors are accompanied by unwanted pregnancies and abortions, which only deepens the cycle of pain and shame.

When a pregnancy is looked at as a mistake...or a burden...or an obstacle that needs to be overcome... it causes us to disregard, and even scorn what is at the heart of being a woman - being a life-giver. Women were made in the image of God. They are created with a purpose and intent. Abortion undermines the very purpose why women are created. To reflect the life-giving attributes of God. This makes for a very unhealthy society and bleak outlook for the future for our families and communities.

The distortion of true beauty and feminine worth hurts all of society. When women are reduced to simply what they have to offer sexually, we are overlooking the emotional, intellectual, spiritual, relational and other gifts that God has poured into women. It also distorts the beauty of life.

The truth of the role of a woman and proper use of femininity and sexuality needs to be taught from a Biblical perspective. The Bible is the textbook on femininity. Men have a natural leadership and gifting from the Lord, and women are the perfect complement to that as leaders in their own right. Men and women together can have the most positive impact on society when learning to work in tandem with each other.