



Lesson 93

Feminism: The Three Types

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In this lesson, we are going to be looking at the different types of feminism. In the last lesson, we looked at the progression of feminism- the three waves. But all feminism isn't the same, and that's what we're going to be looking at today.

Revision

The three waves of feminism

In part one of this two-part series, we looked at the three waves of feminism. The first wave began in 1848 at the Seneca Falls convention, which was a women's rights meeting. The first wave ended in 1920 when women were given the right to vote with the passing of the 19th amendment. The second wave began in 1963 when the book *The Feminine Mystique* was published; it fought for equality. During the second wave there were two beauty pageants in 1968 and 1970; both of these were protested by feminists. In 1989, the second wave ended with the court case Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins, in which it was decided that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act outlawed stereotyping. Also in 1989, the term "intersectionality" was coined, which showed how different types of discrimination overlap or intersect, which creates different levels of inequality- some people facing more types of discrimination than others. In 1991, the third wave began when Anita Hill was ignored, she outlined why Clarence Thomas shouldn't have been nominated to the Supreme Court, because congress was sexist. We are still in the third wave, and we can mark 2006 as an important event in feminism, because it was the beginning of the #MeToo movement. One thing that took place inside feminism from the beginning of the first wave, was a split. Feminism isn't a single group, but it has been divided into three strains, and since the beginning of the third wave feminism there has clearly been a divide. We are going to look at what the three types are next.

Cultural Feminism

What is Cultural feminism?

One branch of feminism is called Cultural feminism. This type of feminism started around the early 1970s; the first mention of the term “cultural feminism” was in a book in 1975. Cultural feminists believe that women and men are different, not just physically but also in how they think and act. These differences can be because of biological factors or societal factors (but those who think the differences are from society also think they are too ingrained to change). They believe that the essence of being female (or stereotypical characteristics of women) are of equal value, or in some cases superior, to that of men. They believe women have an ethic of care: or the tendency to be peaceful, cooperative, and nurturing. They think that these qualities should be celebrated and respected. With that mindset they believe things like more women in global leadership would mean more peace between nations, or the stereotypical role of a mother should be valued like other jobs and maybe even paid. They have also founded women only places, like women’s shelters. Cultural feminism tries to create a female culture inside of what they consider male culture (or the rest of the world). They try to unite all women and get society to value the stereotypical female characteristics that many (but not all) of them have because they believe female essence is valuable.

Pope Francis

Pope Francis can be considered a feminist. But, he is a cultural feminist. He believes in the “female essence”, as does the Catholic church as a whole. For example- nuns. Their job is one that involves caring for others because the Catholic church believes in cultural feminism, or a woman’s ethics of care. Another example is Mary. Everybody knows that the Catholic church worships Mary, but what exactly are they worshiping? They’re worshiping her in a cultural feminist mindset- as the mother of Jesus. They’re worshiping the feminine essence of Mary. Pope Francis and the Catholic church are cultural feminists.

Liberal (Mainstream) Feminism

What is Liberal (mainstream) feminism?

Another form of feminism is Liberal feminism, also called mainstream feminism. Liberal feminism is the oldest form of feminism, dating back to the 1700s. It is the main branch of feminism; with the other strains such as cultural feminism being smaller branches. Liberal feminists believe that everyone is equal regardless of gender, and it works to achieve gender equality by reforming laws, and politics. In the 1900s, the Suffrage Movement was based on Liberal feminism, and it worked to bring about the 19th amendment. However, there are some problems with Liberal feminism. One problem is that Liberal feminism isn't very *bold*. It works to make reforms within the structure of society and culture, rather than challenge the whole patriarchal structure itself. They are happy to integrate women into the sexist structure instead of realizing the structure itself is sexist and fight against it. They choose more representation instead of dealing with the institution- it's a compromise. Another problem with Liberal feminism is the distinction they put between personal and political issues. Liberal feminists will say that personal subjects, which are subjects in the home, aren't political subjects. What they might not realize is that if the personal were not political, domestic violence wouldn't be illegal, because issues at home aren't political issues. Lastly, another problem with Liberal feminism is the subject of choice. Liberal feminists believe that anything done or chosen by a woman is a feminist action. This belief allows Liberal feminists to agree with anything that is classically sexist, and call it feminist because they chose it. For example, if a Liberal feminist chose to submit to headship because the Bible agrees with it, other Liberal feminists would have no problem with that, because they believe every female action is empowering. So, while Liberal feminism pushes for equality on the surface, beneath we see that sexism still prevails in their beliefs.

Lipstick feminism

There is subgroup of Liberal feminism called Lipstick feminism which is growing in popularity in the time of third wave feminism. Lipstick feminists believe that women should be able to act feminine because that empowers them. They think a woman can "choose" to conform to stereotypical feminine qualities and that they can also conform to beauty standards. All of them don't fit into stereotypical gender roles, though, and some of them take beauty standards to the extreme. They think that if women try to make themselves beautiful they will be treated better and respected, and therefore achieve equality. This kind of thinking also encourages women to be independent and not work together to achieve equality like other forms of feminism, because they believe that their appearance will make people treat them better- so everything is up to them individually.

Radical Feminism

What is Radical feminism?

The third group of feminist are Radical feminists. They are the group of feminists that see sexism in everyday life. They coined the term “the personal is the political”. Unlike the liberal feminists who believe that their personal choices don’t have anything to do with the greater part of society, radical feminist don’t believe the two could be separated, meaning the choices they make in their personal lives affect people around them. For example, if they accepted sexism in their personal lives, it could lead to other women also experiencing sexism. Unlike the other forms of feminism, radical feminists don’t want their ideas to integrate with society, they want society deconstructed and rebuilt without the sexism because they understand that sexism is woven into the very foundations of the world. They believe that sexism is the root of all inequality.

Transgender women and feminism

Radical feminism can be further divided into two groups. We know feminism can be split into three groups, cultural, liberal, and radical. Radical feminism has been split into two groups since the 1970s. In the 1970s, it became apparent that there was a split in Radical feminism. The majority of Radical feminist didn’t discriminate against transgender women, and fought alongside them for equality, but the minority didn’t want anything to do with transgenders because they opposed the self-identification of people. They believed that the gender you are born with is what you are and didn’t give people the choice to identify with the gender they felt comfortable with. Radical feminism continued to be divided like this, but there weren’t any specific names for the two sides. In 2008, the term Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminist (TERF) was coined to refer to the transphobic Radical feminists. The rest of the feminists are therefore Trans-Inclusionary Radical Feminist: feminists who don’t discriminate against LGBTQ+ people. This split in Radical feminism continues today with both sides having opposing views on LGBTQ+ equality.

God's Church

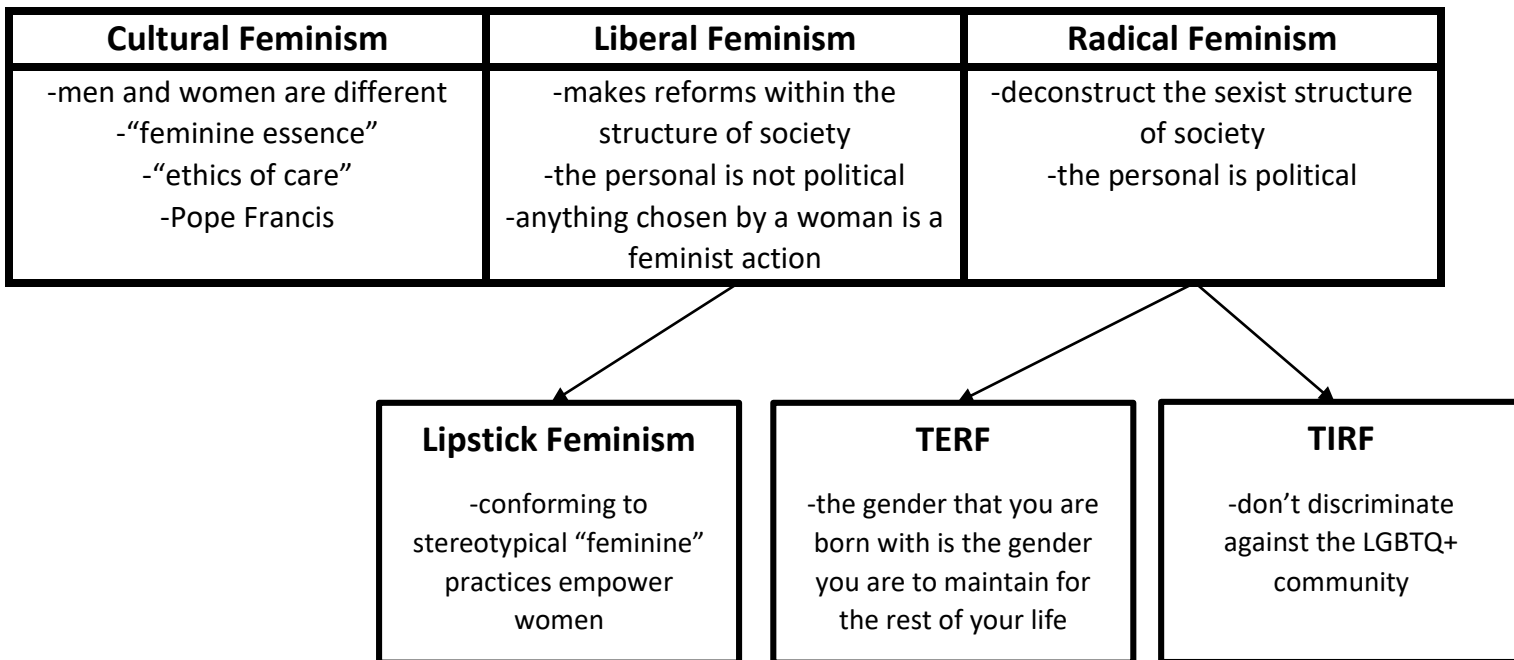
Ellen G. White

When we compare Ellen G. White and the things she says about gender to us and the equality of our time, she looks sexist. But we are in the time of third wave feminism and the first wave of feminism began in 1848, so it is the wave that is connected to the Millerites' history and therefore to Ellen White. In that time women had very few rights at all and Ellen G. White did not support that. She opposed the standards of dress of the day. Women wore extremely long (often trailing the ground) skirts that were also heavy and supported by frames, tight laces that made their waist unnaturally thin, and their extremities were often exposed to the cold; Ellen White opposed all of these things and told women to not follow the standards of dress of their time. She also argued that women needed to be paid an amount equal to how much they had worked; and that ministers' wives who also worked in the church needed to be paid for their service separately from their husbands. Ellen G. White also encouraged women to be educated as well as men when it came to evangelism and working with the sick. For her time Ellen G. White was radical. She, although not a part of the external first wave feminist movement, was a feminist because she believed and advocated for women to have some of the rights they did not have at that time and she also told them not to conform to sexist practices.

What we believe

This Movement is on the side of Trans-Inclusionary Radical feminists, TIRF. We don't support cultural feminism because cultural feminists still believe that there is a difference between men and women and that those differences should be looked upon equally. We don't support liberal feminists because they believe that whatever a woman chooses is equality because she chose it, even if she chose something sexist. We don't support Trans-Exclusionary Radical feminist because they believe that male-to-female (MTF) transsexuals aren't really women because they weren't born that way. We do support Trans-Inclusionary Radical feminists because they support the LGBTQ+ community and are in opposition to the sexism that we encounter all the time.

In summary:



New official Youth Prophecy Group website!

youthprophecygroup.org

If you have any questions or comments on any of the material contact us (YPG) at:

youthprophecygroup@gmail.com

Find all our YPG lesson videos at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeltzVajTXgSQRL-o2XOq_g

Link to YPG Zoom meetings which are at 10:00am Pacific Time on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87170293849>