

# FEMINISM

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.** But do this with gentleness and respect, 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

# Topic: Feminism

## Discuss and Summarize the Secular Worldview:

Sample Summary: Women can do anything men can do, but they've been treated as second-class citizens in many cultures throughout time. Feminism has advanced the cause of women's equality.

## Discuss and Summarize the Christian Worldview:

Sample Summary: God created Eve from Adam's rib or flesh, close to his heart. Women are equal in value, but different in design from men. She is a "helper" to her husband and a "mother" to new life.

## Why This is Important:

Feminism promotes independence from men and fosters animosity between men and women. For women it endorses female power through a career, sexual freedom with many sex partners, fluid gender roles, tax-payer funded abortion on demand, marriage is optional, children are an inconvenience, children don't need a mother or a father, men are all potential rapists (#Me Too), government provides child care and K-12 schools, gender binary was invented by men to oppress women, and now men can become women.

## Scripture Says:

Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 2:7, Genesis 2:18-25, Genesis 3, Proverbs 31:10-31, Ephesians 5:25-26, Galatians 3:28, 1 Timothy 2:9-15, 1 Timothy 3:1-13, 1 Corinthians 11:3

## Worth Considering:

- God made the first woman, Eve, with the commissioning word "helper." Then, she is called "mother." Whether or not she marries and has children, a woman is created as a person-centric human, with many relevant gifts and abilities. She is extraordinarily gifted at making others their best. She is relevantly equipped to be the strength and stay of others. She has emotional perception, interpersonal concern, and nurturing desire that are generally stronger, more natural, and more developed than in men. These

are key areas where femininity shines brightest. This is deliberate, in God's design. (AIG)

- Feminism promotes "independence" over a mutually beneficial relationship with men. Feminism undermines the emphasis of her creation entirely, redefining her from God's definition.
- Feminism has come in four waves:
  - 1) First wave (1848-1920) Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott. Issues were women's suffrage, voting rights, property ownership, pro-life. The contrarians to the first wave included Margaret Sanger promotion of abortion. She formed Planned Parenthood and pushed abortion of the lower classes and those with disabilities, calling them human weeds.
  - 2) Second wave (1963-1980's) feminism was defined by Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinem, Bella Abzug, Roe v. Wade, women's liberation, burning bras, abortion, and civil rights advances.
  - 3) Third wave (1992-2010's) feminism saw the flashpoint of Anita Hill testifying against Clarence Thomas. Affirmative Action, sexual harassment, Girl Power, opposition to nice girl stereotypes, codifying abortion rights, use of the internet for promoting ideas through electronic media, and the National Organization of Women (NOW) were key elements.
  - 4) Fourth wave (2010-Present Day) Issues of sexual harassment, #MeToo, abortion as "reproductive rights" and "health care," gender transition and fluidity, how one identifies is what they are, trans women (biological males) in women's sports, restrooms, and locker rooms, intersectionality causing trans to be valued over women, XX and XY biology minimized, "What is a woman?" cannot be defined, ie: Ketanji Brown Jackson, SCOTUS.
- The Bible places the church leadership roles of pastor or priest onto men. The concept of "headship" is used in marriage and the home.

## Questions to Consider:

- In your opinion, has feminism over time helped women, hurt women, or both? What about men?
- What is the strongest evidence to support your viewpoint?
- Do you envision a Fifth wave feminism? What would it look like?
- Can the Bible, science, and culture be harmonized on this issue?
- Has today's discussion made you reconsider any of your views on this topic?