

Is Motherhood a Blessing or a Curse That Robs Women?

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I. Introduction

Where can a woman find true meaning and satisfaction? Feminism says, "Don't let motherhood rob your true potential. Your true potential can only be found outside the home. In fact, you can have both. Just don't let your family get in the way of your career; use a nanny if you have to." God says, "I made you to work alongside the man and motherhood is a crucial part of that. Don't be deceived into thinking it robs you of anything; it's to your glory."

II. Motherhood: Blessing or Curse?

What Feminism says to women: God created women to be crucial partners in life. But they haven't always been treated that way by men. During the Victorian era women were not allowed to vote, sue, or own property. A woman's fortunes were tied to her husband's. And once married, the woman's body became the husband's property giving him right over sex, childbearing, and domestic labor. Her role was to keep a beautiful home and a beautiful appearance. What about women in America? We usually think of the 1950's as the golden era for the American family, with TV shows like *Leave It to Beaver* and *Father Knows Best* picturing the perfect family: the woman took care of the house while the man ran off to work. But it was the 1950's that led to the feminism of the 1960's and 70's. In fact, feminism can be traced all the way back to Mary Wollstonecraft and 1759.¹ Women in the 1950's fared better than Victorian era women but their job was essentially the same: keep a beautiful home and a beautiful appearance. This is awesome if wife and mother is all you desire. But if you were a woman with aspirations to also have a career, your options weren't the same as a man's. Feminism came to the rescue; it told women that they should be equal to a man in every way. They should also have the right to a career and family. In fact, they shouldn't let a man rob them of their true potential with a domestic life of catering to him and his kids. If she wants a family, she can have it as long as it doesn't interfere with her career goals.

Are men and women equal? Yes! Then why does God ask the woman to submit to the man? First, they are equal before God: they're both made in His image and have the same access to Him (Genesis 1:27; 1 Peter 3:7). Second, when an equal submits to another equal, it's utterly glorifying to the one who submits! Jesus is absolutely equal to God the Father but His willingness to submit even though He was as much God as the Father glorified Him (Philippians 2:5-11). Third, the woman is not the only one who's supposed to submit; the man is to submit to his wife by putting her before himself always (Ephesians 5:21, 25-33). It is appalling that it took 144 years to give women the right to vote in America. It should've been in the first draft of the Constitution instead of taking nineteen amendments to get it in. Fourth, submission, self-sacrifice is the key to life; without it, nothing thrives. Without the self-sacrifice of both mom and dad, the kids are doomed. Without the self-sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross, the entire human race is doomed. Fifth, though they're equal, men and women have different jobs and both are crucial to mankind's key mandate: fill and subdue (Genesis 1:28).

¹ Author Rebekah Merkle chronicles Feminism in her book *Eve in Exile and the Restoration of Femininity* (p. 38-93)

Why did God make women, to crank out babies and keep a clean house?

She wasn't made to look pretty and clean but be a crucial partner in the human race, the creation of the woman wasn't an afterthought. She's not an incidental part or simply there to look pretty and make snacks for the guy while he conquers the world. She's essential to everything mankind must accomplish. Thus, Adam CANNOT do either of the two mandates without Eve which is why God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." (Genesis 2:18). The command to fill and subdue was given to both Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:28).

Would a loving God demean and subjugate women? If God is love and He is (John 3:16; 1 John 4:8), He would never treat women as incidentals or curse them with a life of misery and meaningless existence, especially when He's the one who gave them all those talents and abilities (Psalm 139:13-16). Therefore, the job of wife and mother, though it may seem like a thankless, meaningless existence, it is quite the opposite. It is the foundation upon which God builds His Kingdom. Motherhood is Kingdom building. Adam called Eve the mother of all living (Genesis 3:20), without her there is no life. Why then does God call the woman "helper" (Genesis 2:18)? This is not a term of derision; it's actually an elevation of the woman. Did God the Father need help from God the Son to save mankind? Yes! and the woman gets to play that role in mankind, i.e., she's the one who helps the man be a man. She completes that which is missing in him. What happens to a man when he finally finds his soul mate? It makes everything about him better: his appearance, his home, everything about him is now far better. She brings order and color into his life.

Motherhood is key to the human race and waaay more important than CEO, Feminism tells women that motherhood robs them of their true potential. But motherhood is something that brings glory to the woman (Proverbs 31:28-31). First, without mothers there is no mankind; motherhood is a key mandate for the human race (Genesis 1:28). Second, what's more difficult, what's more important, creating a Company's product or creating a wise, competent, strong, and independent human being? Motherhood is not life-robbing or void of meaning it is life-building, it is miraculous Kingdom-building.

Can a woman have a job/career and a family? Absolutely! When God describes the ideal wife, she's an entrepreneur twice over yet she has a family. This woman is strong and independent, yet she's a mother and a wife (Proverbs 31:10-31). But notice that nothing she does, career or otherwise, is done to fulfill her own aspirations. Everything she does is for her family and she's truly fulfilled by all of it. Motherhood doesn't rob her of anything; it doesn't get in the way of her career. It's possible to do both but there will be different phases in a woman's life (Titus 2:3-5). When she has children to raise, that will take precedence. Once the kids are older and time permits, she's free to pursue a career and God will bless it. The focus of Feminism is "me," my career, my goals, my aspirations. But the focus of everyone, woman **or** man, is not supposed to be "me" but others. If you want to be first, you have to be last (Matthew 20:25-28). God calls all of us to take up our cross and give our lives for others as He did for us (Matthew 16:24-27).

III. Conclusion

Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all." Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.