

# **Religion and the Corruption of Eroticism**

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*The sexual embrace can only be compared with music and with prayer*

## **Introduction**

Using the words “Religion” and “Eroticism” in the same sentence generates a number of different responses, depending on the perspective of the reader. Some will immediately be suspicious, and consider the combination of those two words as the sum of corrupting influences on what to them should be austere and holy. Others will perhaps smirk and replay their feeling of disgust with how traditional religion has supposedly trashed eroticism. Yet others may think that we must be discussing some type of new-age, free-love movement.

The goal of this paper is to demonstrate that Christianity (as directed by Biblical teaching) and eroticism (in its proper context) fit very well together, and it is only because of historic distortions and mischaracterizations that we have come to the point where many have abandoned or at least questioned the faith because it doesn’t seem to square with “real life,” and in particular, the sexual aspects of life.

## **Sexuality and Shame**

Sexuality is, of course, a touchy subject and has been viewed in negative terms by many throughout history. However, in contrast to these negative and questionable views of sex, the book of Genesis indicates that after God finished each element of the creation, He paused and called it “good.” How did something that was supposedly good come to be seen as bad?

The basic and primary reason for the corruption of eroticism is the fall of Adam and Eve. The book of Genesis indicates that prior to that event, both the man and the woman were “naked and unashamed” (Genesis 2:25), implying that they had no sexual hang-ups and no feelings of guilt. Everything about their bodies, their sexuality, and their relationship was pure and right, and shame for them was unknown. This nudity was not only physical—it was also psychological. They were completely open and honest with each other, with nothing to hide or conceal.

After their disobedience, however, the first feeling that they experienced was shame, and the first action they took was to sew leaves together to cover themselves (Genesis 3:7). It is significant that at this point, no other people were present and the couple was alone. In other words, they had been so deeply affected by shame and guilt that they were not even comfortable being naked in front of each other with no one else there to see them.

The shame of their nudity was not simply related to their physical bodies—it was also psychological. From that point onward, in addition to the fig leaves to cover their genitals, they put on what all of us are intimately familiar with—“masks” to conceal their thoughts and hide their motives. They were afraid to fully reveal themselves, both to God and to each other, and became afflicted by the same psychological problems that we suffer with today—guilt, fears, inferiority complexes, and so on. Sexuality, which has deep connections to the associated male/female relationship and cannot be divorced from it, was thus corrupted in the first family, and at the beginning of humanity. In the centuries that followed our views of sexuality became twisted in a variety of additional ways, resulting in much human misery and suffering.

## **Corruptions of Sexuality and Male/Female Relationships**

There are numerous passages that touch on male/female issues, but it is the Song of Solomon, a short old-testament book, where the Biblical approach to romance and sexuality is most fully revealed. Christianity and Catholicism have often been the target of accusations regarding sexual repression and prudery. But a careful reading of the Song of Solomon should disabuse everyone of the notion that the Bible is anti-sex, because this book is essentially a love poem celebrating eroticism. It is therefore worthy of careful consideration. See the following internet resource for a complete commentary on this important book:

[www.unholygrailbook.com/DocCommentaryOnTheSong.asp](http://www.unholygrailbook.com/DocCommentaryOnTheSong.asp)

Many early Jewish rabbis believed that the Song of Solomon could not mean what it literally says. According to some of them, a book of sacred writing could not possibly be about sex and eroticism, so they ascribed spiritual and ethereal meanings to it. The early Christian writers, such as Jerome, Origen, and Augustine, largely followed the lead of these Jewish rabbis.

At times throughout history, the church as well as secular society has demonstrated a loathing of sex, a feeling that the body is unworthy, and a view of women as the cause of temptation and evil. Where did these negative views of sexuality and male/female relationships come from?

As mentioned above, the basic and primary reason is the fall of Adam and Eve, followed by the reduction in the status of women to being the property of men. However, there were a number of specific theological and philosophic developments throughout history that further twisted people’s views of marriage and sexuality.

## **Gnosticism**

In addition to the fall described above and therefore the natural squeamishness that people feel about sex, the source of hostile views toward sexuality was largely the religion of Gnosticism and the ideas of Plato which were the foundation upon which Gnosticism was based.

The Greek philosopher Plato (ca. 400 BC), believed that the heavenly form or archetype of all things was the ideal, and that earthly things are only shadows of the

heavenly, and therefore inferior. The influence of Platonic thought had declined after the destruction of the Greek Empire, but these ideas were revived by the Neoplatonists, led by the Greek philosopher Plotinus (ca. AD 205-270) who lived during the early Christian era, as well as by various Gnostic sects.

Gnosticism (from the Greek word “gnosis” meaning inner knowledge or wisdom), was based on the Platonic concept of the superiority of the spiritual over the physical. Gnosticism taught that only the spiritual aspects of a person were good, and the body was evil. This meant that sex, and especially the female body, were from the “dark side.” Being truly spiritual thus meant removing oneself from the physical aspects of life, to the extent that this is possible, and the adepts who understood this hidden wisdom would seek to remove all fleshly influences from their lives. Gnostic theology is also dualistic—God and the devil are essentially equal in power and are constantly at war with each other. Some Gnostic philosophers taught that this continuous war between God and Satan was the main source of human misery and suffering.

Why was there a surge in Gnosticism’s appeal during the second century? It was a reaction on the part of some to the despair and darkness of those times. In Israel, traditional Judaism had held the upper hand over Jewish Christians from the standpoint of politics and money, and they had persecuted the church since a few years after the death and resurrection of Christ. The Jews also continued their revolt against Roman power, which led to the Roman general Titus invading Jerusalem in 70 AD, and destroying the Jewish temple so thoroughly that there was “not one stone left on top of another.” The temple mount that still exists today is all that survived (the Islamic Dome of the Rock was built there six hundred years later).

Further unrest followed, culminating in the Bar Kokba rebellion of 132-135 AD, in which the Sanhedrin regarded their military commander, Simon Bar Kokba, as the Jewish Messiah, causing a deep schism between traditional and Christian Jews. The Roman emperor Hadrian, determined to wipe out Jewish resistance to Roman rule once and for all, crushed this revolt with great ferocity. His armies destroyed every fortification and razed almost every town in the land, and over a half-million Jews were slaughtered. Hadrian then burned a copy of the Torah on the temple mount, banished Jews from Jerusalem, forcibly resettled survivors in other lands, and renamed the land “Palestine” in place of “Judea” in order to wipe out its existence. Hadrian is the source of the term “Palestinian.”

In the bitter aftermath of this catastrophe, betrayed by false hopes of a Messianic military deliverance, many turned away, sought other religions, and created a number of antinomian sects. The Gnostic Cainites were an example of this—former Jews who came together after the Bar Kokba revolt, and who rejected all prior teaching. The Cainites taught that Jehovah of the Old Testament was evil, and they venerated Cain, the son of Adam, who was the first murderer in history. The *Gospel of Judas* in which Judas Iscariot is the hero, was a Cainite writing.

Perhaps the largest and best-known Gnostic group were the Cathari of southern France. Like other Gnostics, the Cathari believed in theological dualism, were anti-sex, and were hostile to maternity and family, at least for those in the inner circle of Catharism. Pregnant female Cathar followers were told that they “carried demons in their bellies.”

While the church never seriously considered adopting the dualistic concepts of Gnosticism, which are antithetical to the Bible, it unfortunately allowed some of the anti-sexual overtones of the Gnostics and the Neoplatonists to creep in through the influential theologian Augustine (354–430 AD) and others. In his early life, Augustine was deeply influenced by Plato and the Greek philosophers, and therefore no doubt internalized some of the Platonic/Gnostic prejudices concerning sexuality. Augustine went from being a playboy and besotted with sex as a young man (and very much ashamed of what he had done), to becoming a leader in the church. He eventually became the Bishop of Hippo in North Africa in his latter years. By the end of his life, his view of sexuality had taken a 180-degree turn. Having been obsessed with lust as a youth and deeply troubled by his obsession, he then condemned even marital sex, and censured other teachers who objected to his views. In his *Soliloquies* he wrote, “Nothing is so powerful in drawing the spirit of a man downward as the caresses of a woman, and that physical intercourse which is part of marriage.” Augustine’s immense contributions to the church in the realms of theology and philosophy were thus darkened by his negative view of sexuality, and the negativity he fostered continues on the part of some to this day.

## **Asceticism**

An even more significant source of sexual condemnation were the ascetic and monastic movements. Medieval society was often brutish, coarsely sensual, and corrupt, and many felt a desire to purify themselves in order to approach God. Thus, a number of ascetic and monastic movements were launched, including the Cluniacs, Cistercians, Dominicans, Franciscans, Jesuits, Hospitallers, and even the Knights Templar. Each of these organizations had different rules for their members, but most required or preferred celibacy, because sexuality was often seen as moral pollution or compromise. These groups often went beyond mere personal abstention, to believing and preaching that sex itself was wrong and/or evil.

All of us have the tendency to think that our own desires are normative—in other words, that everyone else should live in the same way and have the same desires as ours. Those with lower levels of sexual desire will thus tend to look down on people with higher sex drives, and think of them, correctly or incorrectly, as lustful, licentious, and decadent, whereas those with higher levels of desire tend to view those with lower sex drives as repressed, inhibited prudes.

Many people define their religion partially or wholly in terms of the things that they do not do. In other words, there is a tendency to think of oneself as “a real Christian,” “a real Catholic,” “a real Humanist,” or “a good person” because one does not smoke, drink alcohol, snort cocaine, or “xxx”—fill in the blank. This is spiritual pride, the sin of the Pharisees, which Jesus condemned in the strongest terms. The danger of spiritual pride is that a person will go beyond merely giving up “xxx” as a personal calling intended just for them. He or she begins to think that “xxx” must be given up by all in order to become truly spiritual. Next, the person begins to think of others who engage in such things as sub-par and inferior, and to tout their own piety and spirituality, as well as maligning those who have a different perspective.

The Gnostic, Platonic, and ascetic influences combined with spiritual pride, resulted in many harmful teachings:

1. Sexual pleasure is tinged with evil.
2. Sex is for procreation only.
3. Birth control is wrong.
4. Women are a temptation that must be avoided if a man would be truly spiritual.
5. Priests and official ministers of the church must be celibate.

The life of bishops and priests throughout most of the history of Catholicism thus swung back and forth between celibacy and the complete condemnation of sex on the one hand, and a debauchery of sexual excess on the other. The history of the Papacy is depressingly replete with men for whom celibacy was a thinly-veiled hypocrisy.<sup>\*\*</sup> Bishops and priests were and are just as red-blooded as any other males, and when their sexual desires had no valid outlet, it resulted in homosexuality, concubinage, prostitution, affairs with married women, and the resulting social problems and feelings of betrayal by those in the church who looked to the Pope and the bishops as both moral and spiritual leaders. The current problems with homosexual and pedophile priests in the Catholic Church may well be a modern symptom of this issue.

This is not to say that asceticism is evil. The Bible directs us to fast at times, not because food is evil, but because we sometimes need to put aside all other concerns when praying and entering the presence of God.

Likewise, celibacy is not innately wrong or bad. Some may be called to it, and have the necessary personal discipline and/or the lack of sexual desire to remain in a celibate state without undue frustration. Some of the most successful people in history never married, such as John the Baptist, the Apostle Paul, Leonardo Davinci, Queen Elizabeth, and Mother Theresa. A celibate person has “mastered his or her own body,” and therefore celibacy can become a source of power, pride, self-esteem, and purity, as well as providing more time and energy for other activities.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>\*\*</sup> Most of the popes were corrupt in some degree, but the worst was probably Alexander VI (1492-1503). He committed his first murder at age twelve and bartered benefices and bishoprics to gain power—his election as pope was a crass political bargain. He had numerous mistresses, conducted orgies in the Vatican, repeatedly used his daughter Lucretia for influence peddling (married her off to one ally, and then pulled her back and married her to others, claiming that she was still a virgin), and made his cruel and arrogant son, Cesare Borgia, his military leader and enforcer in the Papal States. Cesare Borgia was probably the man to whom Machiavelli dedicated his political treatise *The Prince*, and thus he was the first ruler to be designated as “machiavellian.” Machiavelli stated, “The Italians owe a great debt to the Roman church and its clergy. Through their example we have lost all true religion and have become complete unbelievers. Taken as a rule, the nearer the nation dwells to the Roman Curia, the less religion it has.” The historian Thomas Tomasi wrote, “It would be impossible to enumerate all of the murders, the rapes and the incests, which were every day committed at the court of the pope. Scarcely the life of man could be long enough to register the names of all of the victims murdered, poisoned, or thrown alive into the Tiber.”

For centuries the Catholic Church claimed both spiritual and political authority. In 756 Pope Stephen II made a deal with the Merovingian major domo Pepin III to appoint the latter as King of France in return for assistance against the Lombards, who were then ravaging northern Italy. The Lombard territory was conquered by Pepin and given to the church. This area became the Papal States, and for a thousand years the Papacy was a combined spiritual-political entity, typically just as power-hungry and corrupt as the surrounding kingdoms. The Papal States were conquered by Napoleon, and church landholdings were eventually reduced to the current Vatican City (2 sq. miles). This defeat saved the Catholic Church, as it was at this point that church leaders returned to their primary focus of spiritual leadership.

But celibacy should never have been turned into an obligation because God created us with sexual appetites, and never intended that celibacy should be a requirement for ministry. The Old Testament contains detailed instructions on marriage for priests, who were almost always married, and the New Testament likewise takes the view that church leaders will marry. A married leader is better able to understand and relate to the concerns of the rest of society, and has the perspective of a member of the opposite sex living with them. Mandatory clerical celibacy was therefore not the command of God, but the mistake of men.

## Bridal Mysticism

Another way that sexuality was twisted by the Catholic Church was through the teachings of St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153). Bernard was an ascetic and one of the founders and champions of the Cistercian monastic order, as well as being the European spokesman for the Knights Templar, a confidant of several Popes, and the “power behind the throne.” He was probably the most influential man of his times.

In addition to his monastic and political activities, Bernard wrote many sermons on the Song of Solomon and used this book to construct his theological doctrine of “Bridal Mysticism.” The New Testament indicates that the church as a whole is the bride of Christ, but Bernard took this a step further, applying feminine imagery to everyone in the church, men as well as women. According to Bernard, every believer should become the literal “Bride of Christ.”

Masculinity with its aggressive and competitive urges was seen by Bernard as inherently unspiritual. Men were therefore told to abandon their masculine nature as being inimical to spirituality, and to adopt the feminine mindset of a receptive vessel for the grace of God. For example, Bernard urged his male monks to “let your breasts swell with the milk of compassion.” This sounds twisted and repugnant to most men, with overtones of homosexuality and bisexuality.

Ironically, Bernard was also the main European cheerleader for the Knights Templar, a military order in Palestine that was founded after the First Crusade, in which control of the city of Jerusalem was wrested from the Muslims. The Knights were thus dedicated to the defense of pilgrims and the support of the Crusaders in the Holy Land.<sup>††</sup> Bernard himself wrote the charter and the code of conduct for the Knights, basing it on the same rules used for his Cistercian monks, for which celibacy was a requirement. Therefore, in Bernard’s view, a militaristic man could only serve God if he gave up wife and family, and dedicated his life to fighting, with the additional limitation that the conflicts had to be sanctioned by the Pope. Only in this way could the aggressions of masculinity be redeemed. The Templars venerated Bernard, and taking his theological concepts, they melded them into the Templar version of chivalry, which was total devotion to fighting the enemies of God, whoever they may be. For his part, Bernard was

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<sup>††</sup> The Knights Templars came to France in 1128 seeking support for their order. At the time they were still a tiny group but with significant political influence given their role in preserving Christian control of the Holy Land. Bernard organized a church council in Troyes to honor them, and Troyes became the European capital for the order. Two years later in 1130 Bernard was successful in having Innocent II appointed Pope, and in the same year Innocent granted Papal recognition and exemption from all secular taxation and control to the Templars.

always mindful of the tenuous hold that the Crusader Kingdom and the Knights Templar had on Jerusalem, and it was due to Bernard's insistence that Pope Eugenius III (who, in the opinion of many, was Bernard's lackey and mouthpiece) launched the disastrous Second Crusade in 1145.<sup>‡‡</sup>

Bernard was also obsessed with the Virgin Mary (with her passive and receptive nature) and Bernard's ideas and writings formed much of the basis for the veneration of Mary, and the latter declaration of the Catholic Church that Mary herself had no sin and was "immaculately conceived." The idea that goddesses could recover their virginity after sexual experience was an ancient concept. Led by Bernard, this idea was increasingly applied to the Virgin Mary by church leaders. Seven hundred years later, Pope Pius IX (1846-1878) formalized the doctrine of the immaculate conception of Mary as official church policy, and declared that Mary was a "perpetual virgin." This same pope also declared that pontiffs are infallible in matters of faith and morality. However, Pius IX merely formalized these concepts, as they had been part of the standard papal operating policy for centuries.

Many have noted that men are largely absent from Catholic churches, and have been for a long time. This is especially true in Latin America where "church is for females and girly men." The top leadership is male, but those who attend and become active in church ministries are mostly female. This was not always so—in the early church male and female participation was relatively equal. More equal participation is also true of many Protestant denominations, as well as Judaism and Islam, and Muslim men may be more religiously active than Muslim women. The negative influences of St. Bernard's teachings have thus persisted in Catholicism down to the present.

In addition to denying any literal translation of Song of Solomon, Bernard was also one of the main proponents of his time of the notion that only the designated representatives of church could read and interpret the Scriptures, and that the common man should simply listen to his religious leaders and obey them without question. In contrast, Peter Abélard, the famed lover of Héloïse, and a contemporary of Bernard, was one of the first church teachers to espouse personal reading and consideration of the

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<sup>‡‡</sup> Pope Eugenius III (1145-1153) was Bernard's ex-disciple, and it was through Bernard's lobbying efforts that Eugenius was appointed Pope in 1145. Many believed that Bernard was the real Pope and Eugenius was his puppet; Bernard was thus a man of great power and influence, but who preferred to work behind the scenes. At the urging of Bernard, Eugenius immediately proclaimed a Second Crusade as one of the first acts of his Papacy, and Bernard then crisscrossed Europe, preaching and urging people to get involved.

Many responded to this appeal and the Second Crusade was launched, but it suffered from the same serious problem that had almost caused the failure of the First Crusade, namely the lack of an overall leader who could command respect and enforce discipline among all of the other fractious leaders and troops. The Second Crusade went in three directions at once, and was an unmitigated fiasco. Bernard was blamed for it and he spent the last years of his life dealing with the criticism that was heaped upon him. His answer was that the people of Europe had become too sinful and therefore were not sufficiently worthy of God's help.

Bernard was thus an interesting, complex, and great man who was at once both an ascetic, living an austere life, as well as being a man-of-the-world, heavily involved with politics and power. Prior to 1112 when Bernard joined the Cistercians, the finances of the order were very limited, but shortly thereafter, the Cistercians expanded tremendously. By the time of Bernard's death, there were over three hundred Cistercian abbeys, many of which Bernard had personally established. The Knights Templar became even more successful—they were reportedly wealthier than any country in Europe at the height of their influence, and contributed extensively to Bernard's Cistercian ministry.

Bible. His treatise *Sic et Non* was an attempt to apply logic to the questions of theology. This is routine practice for Christians today, but it was a revolutionary idea in the twelfth century. Due to Bernard's opposition, Abélard teachings cost him his life.<sup>88</sup>

St. Bernard of Clairvaux was canonized as a saint, and his teaching on Mary and his doctrine of Bridal mysticism had the benefit of elevating the status of women and ascribing spiritual value to femininity. But this was achieved at the cost of denigrating masculinity and corrupting the church's view of sexuality. His concepts of bridal mysticism, combined with the Gnostic/Platonic/ascetic anti-sex and anti-female biases described above, have been largely responsible for the Catholic Church's failure to treat sexuality in a positive and affirming way down through the centuries.

## Courtly Love

The Middle Ages also witnessed the flowering of chivalry and *amour courtois*, or "courtly love," which idealized women as the fair sex and put them on a pedestal. This movement began in southern France primarily through the influence of William IX, Duke of Aquitaine (1071-1127), the great-grandfather of King Richard the Lionhearted. In addition to being a political leader, William IX was also a poet, and the first well-known troubadour of history. He was a Casanova-type of type of man, singing the praises of women, as he hopped from one bed to the next. Courtly love was later championed by Eleanor of Aquitaine, Richard's mother, and the powerful wife of Henry II.

Love and affection were poor reasons for marital coupling in the thinking of that era. Marriage, especially for the high-born, was a formal affair, often arranged by parents when the children were infants. It was primarily concerned with property rights and dynastic maintenance. Love, if it occurred at all, was a secondary consideration. *Amour courtois* was thus an attempt to reintroduce love, romance, and eroticism back into male/female relationships, to curb the brutishness of men during a violent era, and to elevate the status of women. But on the other hand, it was also intended to justify adultery and break down the hegemony of marriage, so that men could sample the charms of many women, and that married women could be free to engage in affairs.

The church responded in predictable fashion, denouncing the sensual and adulterous impulses of courtly love. The Albigensian Crusade of the 1200's against the Gnostic Cathars of southern France (who ironically also condemned eroticism and demanded celibacy of their followers) perhaps was also an attempt to repress the libertine practices of that region.

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<sup>88</sup> The story of Peter Abélard and Héloïse is a poignant tale of that time. Héloïse was a student of Abélard, and they soon fell in love with each other. But Abélard could not marry her due to his clerical commitment to celibacy. After discovering their relationship, Héloïse's guardian sent her to a nunnery and had Abélard castrated. In spite of this, they continued their devotion to each other for the rest of their lives, but without ever seeing each other again. In anguish, Abélard wrote many letters, poems, and songs to and for her, and lived the rest of his life in sorrow over her.

Abélard was opposed by Bernard of Clairvaux, who had long despised his views (that the common people should read and interpret the Bible for themselves). The two of them agreed to a debate, which took place in 1141. But Bernard, who was no match for Abélard, turned the debate into an inquisition and sought to have Abélard condemned and burned as a heretic. Abélard fled, but died soon afterward. He and Héloïse were finally united in death. She died twenty years after him, and was buried beside him.

The same fault lines exist today—an “anything goes” mentality pushed by liberal cultural forces, opposed by conservatives who condemn it. Unfortunately, the balance provided by the Song of Solomon—unbridled eroticism within the context of marriage—was then and still is today, often lost in the shuffle.

## Feminism

Being a modern movement, most people are quite familiar with feminism and its influences. It has been instrumental in shaping the contemporary Western mind, but despite its accomplishments on behalf of women, feminism is responsible for a number of serious marital and familial pathologies, and so needs to be included in the list of ways that the male/female dynamic has been twisted. Considering problems with a popular mindset can be painful, but analyzing it is all the more necessary, because feminism is the one of the most powerful forces in current times that is damaging sexuality and polluting male/female relationships. Therefore, we shall consider it in detail.

Feminism is rooted in and was the result of the wrenching changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution. Up to that time, and for decades afterward, society was largely rural and agrarian. There were few stores where goods could be purchased, and little division of labor, i.e., each household produced virtually everything necessary for life. Goods were generally handmade, children were educated largely by their parents, and most activities centered around the home. Husband and wife were each essential because survival required the application of both masculine and feminine skills. Life meant hard work for all, but there was often a deep satisfaction in such a life, because everyone was needed and the roles were clear. Feminine traits and skills were highly valued and appreciated because they were necessary for the survival and prosperity of the family. Therefore, even though the lot of women was often very hard (as was also the lot of men), their place in society as wife and mother was generally honored and held in high esteem. They certainly had fewer rights than men did, but they also had a relatively high level of respect.

However, the Industrial Revolution changed all that. Transportation facilities were developed and people who had once spent their entire life in one locale began to move. Men left their homes and farms to labor in the factories. Formerly they had worked closely with their wives, but now their time was largely spent away from home, developing a separate work life. Manufactured goods became common, and many labor-saving devices were invented. Thus, the homemaking and handicraft skills of wives were increasingly rendered unnecessary. Public schools, started in the 1850s, increasingly became the place where children were educated, in contrast to earlier times in which education was done at home and in privately funded local schools (in colonial times, it was assumed that when a child started school they already knew how to read, and ironically, the level of literacy was higher then than it is today). These changes took a long time to fully sink in, and were not completely realized until the twentieth century.

As the transformations wrought by the Industrial Revolution took hold, women gradually woke up to find themselves dispossessed. Her central place in the home was gone, which meant that her economic significance had disappeared. Her role as teacher and moral guide to her children was increasingly taken over by the public schools. She no longer had a close working relationship with her husband, and both men and kids left the

home. The elements that defined womanhood, that gave it worth and value, were therefore devalued in the eyes of many women. Significantly, the feminist movement was launched in 1792 by Mary Wollstonecraft with her book *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*, twenty-three years after James Watt's invention of the steam engine. This invention was considered by many as the starting point of the Industrial Revolution.

The 1800s also ushered in the Victorian era, which is remembered for its prim and properness. But it is also remembered for its repressive attitudes toward women. Victorian sexuality, by-and-large, was male-oriented, and typically denied that sex could be pleasurable for women. The Victorians developed their own brand of feminism, which taught that sex was a woman's unpleasant duty. This served to exacerbate male-female tensions by encouraging women to remain chaste and refusing to have sex as a way of gaining moral superiority and control over men.

Another cultural shift of the 1800s, of great significance for contemporary feminism, was the so-called Romantic Movement. Romantic philosophers and writers, such as Fichte, Rousseau, Hegel, and Goethe emphasized emotion and feelings over reason—that a person could tap into the “world soul” and experience “personal truth” that stood above, and often in conflict with, reason and everyday reality. Implicit in romantic thinking is that morality is self-defined, and that truth is relative and mutable.

American women received voting rights via the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution in 1920. In the same era, Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, began to advocate for birth control and later abortion. She was an atheist who preached birth control partly as a racist and eugenic tool to reduce the size of undesirable elements in the population, setting up clinics in poor black neighborhoods for this purpose.

The rumblings continued through the early twentieth century, when World War I and especially World War II moved many American women out of the home, and got them involved in wartime factory production. Finally the sexual revolution of the 1950's and 60's (essentially a repudiation of Victorian ideas of sexuality) set the stage for a widespread discontent with traditional femininity. The Vietnam War years of the 1960's and 70's popularized rebellion, and was the heyday of feminist movement. After success in supporting birth control, the energies of the feminist movement were turned to the struggle for abortion rights, culminating in the controversial *Roe vs. Wade* Supreme Court decision of 1973.

Feminism has made significant achievements for women, such as the following:

1. New educational and career opportunities that were previously perceived to be the exclusive domain of males were opened to women.
2. Greater appreciation was paid to female ideas and concerns.
3. More freedom was available to women to make unfettered decisions about their lives (the previously perceived obligations of marriage and motherhood came to be seen as options, rather than absolute requirements).
4. Equal pay for equal work.
5. More financial independence for women.

However, just as the Catholic Church has brought both blessing and tribulation to society, providing peace and purpose but also afflicting us with asceticism and bridal

mysticism, so feminism has likewise been a mixed blessing. It has achieved some good things, but has also produced dark and bitter fruit. Rather than trying to find ways of rebuilding the family and restoring the wife to a place of honor in the home, the women's movement took the opposite tack, and sought to instruct women that femininity was bankrupt and had to be abandoned. They told women that in order to have any sense of worth, they had to become like men.

Like other broad social movements, feminism encompasses a wide variety of perspectives. On one end of the spectrum are women who love men, or are at least willing to put up with them, and simply want more freedom and power in their relationships. On the other end are women who hate men and feel that marriage and sex dehumanizes and enslaves women by its very nature. The latter group was the driving force of the feminist movement, using rhetoric that was often hostile and virulent. Among other things, they taught that:

- “Male/female differences have no biological basis.” Kate Millett, considered to be one of the founders of the contemporary feminism, said, “It is time that we realized that the whole structure of male and female personality is entirely imposed by social conditioning.”<sup>2</sup>

The notion that personality is plastic did not originate with feminism. Behavioral psychologists such as Pavlov, Watson, and Skinner, claimed that they could, in Watson's words, “shape a child into any form desired by conditioning it, provided that the conditioning began in infancy.” Freud popularized the idea of a single overriding motivation for all people. For Freud it was sex; for Adler, superiority; for Rogers and Maslow, self-actualization. A theory of personality based on a single overriding motivation is appealing because it simplifies the enormous complexities of psychology, but unfortunately it does not accord with the reality of human nature. Most of Freud's theories have long been discredited, and despite the claims of the behaviorists, children retain their inborn gender orientation and personality despite the efforts of parents and society to alter them. David Keirsey, in his excellent book *Please Understand Me*, explains:

There are two sides to personality—temperament and character. Temperament is a configuration of inclinations, while character is a configuration of habits. Character is disposition, temperament is predisposition... Put another way, our brain is a sort of computer which has temperament for its hardware and character for its software. The hardware is the physical base from which character emerges, placing an identifiable fingerprint on each individual's attitudes and actions. This underlying consistency can be observed from a very early age—some features earlier than others—long before individual experience or social context (the software) has had time to imprint the person. Thus temperament is the inborn form of human nature; character, the emergent form, which develops through the interaction of temperament and environment.

I furthermore want to emphasize that temperament, character, and personality are configured, which means that, not only are we predisposed to develop certain attitudes and not others, but that these

actions and attitudes are unified—they hang together... For example, SJ's [Guardian personality-type individuals] base their self-image on reliability, service, and respectability, these three traits emerging together as a unified structure of personality. These traits preclude the emergence, for example, of an SP self-image [Artisan personality-type individuals] which are based on artistic action, audacity, and adaptability to circumstances.<sup>3</sup>

Kiersey's insights help to explain many otherwise puzzling aspects of human nature. For example, it becomes clear that the large difference in perspective on sexuality by liberals and conservatives is not primarily due to church teaching or lack of it. Rather, it is because social conservatives are overwhelming the Guardian personality type mentioned above, whereas liberals are largely Artisans. Guardians are concerned with rules and social propriety, whereas Artisans are concerned with freedom and unfettered experience. Given the fact that temperament is immutable, both types of people will always see the world through their own mental filters, and be drawn to teachers and institutions that support their own biases. It is inevitable that they will butt heads to some degree.

Gender, like temperament, is an inborn trait. Thus the notion that male/female differences are primarily environmental is a falsehood, as most sexual differentiation is biological in nature. It has been definitively shown that, along with male/female hormonal differences (testosterone vs. estrogen), the structure and wiring of male and female brains are strikingly different, explaining the persistent and stereotypical differences between the sexes.<sup>4</sup> Environment and upbringing can certainly be influential. But the inborn factors of temperament and gender impose limits on character.

While gender is hard-wired, the way that gender expresses itself in society is learned, and becomes part of the individual's "software." This takes place by the infant observing how older individuals of each gender conduct themselves, and eventually identifying with and mimicking that conduct. Culture essentially confirms and gives expression to what biology has already determined.

People are thus elastic to a degree, but there are limits to this elasticity. As parents have known for generations, babies are born with their sexual identity firmly in place, and resist efforts by parents or society to transgender them. Genetic re-engineering would be necessary in order to significantly alter the major differences between males and females.

But due to feminist stridency and the politically correct straightjacket thrown over academia, research that contravened feminist theory was rejected out of hand. Researchers who did not hew to the party line were in danger of losing their positions and financial support. This problem continues today, with many American institutes of higher education being bastions of feminist intolerance and censorship.

Why is it so important to feminists that male/female differences be environmental rather than biological, even when the evidence is completely against them? Because then they can claim that society is responsible for keeping men in power and holding women back. This erroneous belief allowed feminists

to claim that environmental forces such as religion (read Christianity), and the family are responsible for enslaving women and keeping them down, and that the submission of women was simply a long-running patriarchal conspiracy. Furthermore, it has given them the justification and the moral high ground for demanding the radical legal and societal changes that have been made.

In keeping with its roots in the Romantic movement of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, feminists “feel” the truth of their cause even when it is contradicted by the facts. This type of deception has become common, and spokespersons routinely lie to support the women’s movement:

1. Gloria Steinem originally reported that 150,000 young women (age 15 to 24) die every year of anorexia nervosa—actual numbers are in the range of 50-100.<sup>5</sup> Her statistic has been widely quoted despite its utter absurdity.
2. Public service ads for women’s shelters have indicated an increase in domestic violence of up to 40% during the Super Bowl week—no such increase has ever been detected.<sup>6</sup>
3. Both the anorexia and super bowl hoax stories above were advocated by the feminist media watchdog organization FAIR (“Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting,” or more accurately, “Feminist Agenda in Reporting”). When the 150,000 anorexia death number was questioned, FAIR indicated that the total was incorrect because deaths from heart failure or suicide may have been wrongly interpreted. Unfortunately for FAIR, the numbers for 1991 (the year in question) for deaths of young women from heart failure was 19 and the total number of suicides was 649 in the target group, and most of the suicide deaths were clearly not due to anorexia.<sup>7</sup>
4. A widely reported feminist statistic states that 1 out of every 4 college women is the victim of rape or attempted rape every year.<sup>8</sup> In other words, every woman who goes to a four-year college has essentially a 100% likelihood of being raped. This is only true if you stretch the definition of “rape” to include “flirtation” and “undesired advance.”
5. An even more popular statistic cited in many feminist works, is that an astounding 9,000,000 women were slaughtered in witch hunts carried out by Christians over the last 500 years. This number was first created by the early radical feminist Matilda Gage in her 1893 work *Women, Church and State*, a book that was so extreme and far-fetched that it soon went out of print, but was revived by a feminist publishing house in the 1970s. The actual number is around 50,000, and many of those were men. When one researcher challenged the nine million statistic, the response was to demand that “International laws be created to outlaw such anti-feminism.”<sup>9</sup>
6. A recent article (January 16, 2007) in the New York Times, a feminist stronghold, indicated that over 51% of women are now living without a spouse. A subsequent National Public Radio (another feminist mouthpiece) report announced: “Single Women Take the Lead in America—for what may be the first time ever, 51 percent of American women are living without a husband. Single women are more socially connected, economically stable, and happier than ever before.” But a more

careful analysis of the study revealed that the number included all females over age 15 living at home, wives of men who are absent due to military and work commitments, and other categories of women whose single status is problematic. In other words, the study author grabbed every possible female living without a man, truly single or not, in a desperate attempt to reach the 51% number, and then pontificated that since this is a majority, single women must be happier.

7. An even more recent report (April 28, 2007) stated that the value of a stay-at-home wife's services is approximately \$130,000 per year. As this is higher than even the *combined average income* of American families, the immediate question is, "how could that number possibly be so high?" As with the 51% single woman analysis above, this was done by taking the highest cost of different services that a professional would provide, rather than hiring an individual to do all of them. The reason for this type of statistic is to support the feminist contention that the market discriminates against women, and that the government should step in and arbitrarily set the wages of all "female" occupations at a multiple of the current market rate, and implement socialistic wage and price controls.

The feminist movement thus continually attempts to lie with statistics and then trumpet the numbers through their liberal media mouthpieces, knowing that the corrections and retractions will be seen and heard by much smaller audiences. The homosexual movement, of which many feminists are also members, uses similar mendacious propaganda (e.g., the lie that 10% of the American population is homosexual—the reality is that less than 2% are homosexual, meaning that over 98% of the population is heterosexual). Ann Scales, herself a feminist and a legal scholar, said, "Feminist analysis begins with the principle that objective reality is a myth."

Feminists and homosexuals excuse their deceptions because their position "feels right to them," as well as on the basis that the transformation of society and the destruction of male dominance is supposedly so important that their lies are acceptable. The idea is to trumpet your propaganda as loudly as possible so as to quickly gain power and influence—once in power the group will be able to mute and minimize the criticism of opponents. As the feminist author, Monique Wittig, said: "Remember. Make an effort to remember. Or failing that, invent."<sup>10</sup>

- "The traditional family is the source of societal problems." Despite the obvious and common sense benefits of a two-parent family, many feminist studies were and are being produced to attempt to demonstrate the benefits of single-parent and homosexual homes, and to denigrate traditional families.
- "All depictions of women being submissive to men should be outlawed." This was a petition of Andrea Dworkin and Catherine MacKinnon from the University of Michigan to the Supreme Court. According to Dworkin: "The immutable self of the male boils down to an utterly unselfconscious parasitism...Self is incrementally expanded as the parasite drains off self from those not entitled to

it...As a child the first self he drains is that of his mother...He uses her up.”<sup>11</sup> In her book *Intercourse*, Dworkin characterizes male sexual urges as a desire to make women “dirty,” and compares the female sexual organs to a toilet.<sup>12</sup> According to Dworkin: “If she wants him sexually he calls her slut; if she does not want him he rapes her and says she does; he beats her and names it ‘proof of love’...Marriage as an institution developed from rape as a practice. Rape, originally defined as abduction, became marriage by capture.”<sup>13</sup>

Mary Daly, a longtime professor of philosophy at Boston College, wrote, “All females, from four-month-old babies to octogenarians are potential victims in a rapist society whose male members function as ‘lethal organs.’”<sup>14</sup> Daly also accused those who had let the above-mentioned 1893 book *Women, Church and State* go out of print, of committing “mind-rape” against women.

These statements are hate speech, and these women should have been considered psychotic and a danger to society, but sadly they were instead given tenured positions and pulpits in academia from which to spew their venom and force their intolerance on others.

- “The housewife is a parasite.” This was a direct attack on traditional women and families, and an attempt to make them feel guilty for staying home and caring for their children. Such women were demeaned at every turn by statements from prominent feminists, such as:
  1. Charlotte Perkins Gilman: “The housewife is a parasitic creature.”<sup>15</sup>
  2. Simone de Beauvoir: “Women’s work within the home has no direct benefit to society...her work produces nothing, and the housewife is therefore subordinate, secondary, and parasitic.” “With all of the respect thrown around it by society, the function of gestation still inspires a spontaneous feeling of revulsion.”<sup>16</sup>
  3. Kate Millett: “The family, as that term is presently understood, must go.”<sup>17</sup>
  4. Jessie Barnard: “[To be happy in a traditional marriage] a woman must be slightly ill mentally.”<sup>18</sup>
  5. Carolyn G. Heilbrun: “[The woman who devotes herself to home and family] lacks selfhood since she fails to act in the public domain. She is a female impersonator, simply fulfilling the needs of others.”<sup>19</sup>
  6. Karen DeCrow: “No man should allow himself to support his wife—no matter how much she favors the idea, no matter how many centuries this domestic pattern has existed, no matter how logical the economics of the arrangement may appear, no matter how good it makes him feel.”<sup>20</sup>
  7. Betty Friedan: “Why, despite the opportunities open to all women now, do so few have any purpose in life other than to be a wife and mother?... They are victims of a mistaken choice... not growing up but continually infantilizing... and living in a state inferior to their true capabilities... They are mindless and thing-hungry... and not people... They are trapped in trivial domestic routine and meaningless busywork... and by declining to pursue a professional career, she evades a serious commitment through which she might finally realize herself.”<sup>21</sup>

Thousands of women are indeed fulfilled by marriage and motherhood, and many would gladly reduce their work responsibilities in order to spend more time with their children. Friedan and the others seem to be incapable of understanding this, or perhaps more realistically, deliberately trash those desires in order to justify and promote their own personal biases.

But if the goal is, as it seems to be, to make sure the best and brightest women don't get distracted by the temptation of love and motherhood—the feminine role—there must be no “turning back the clock” on divorce. Women must be permanently at risk of abandonment and poverty, so that they will be forced to work continuously. And if society must make special accommodations for motherhood, these benefits must be structured so as to keep women on the job, lest the most ambitious feel odd or awkward because they aren't fulfilling traditional female roles. In keeping with this goal, the achievements of women as wives and mothers must be continually downgraded and suppressed because there is no other way that cultivating the feminine virtues in ourselves will help us write original philosophy or become great statesmen... This is why liberal feminists have such contempt for any proposal to improve women's lives that rejects androgyny.<sup>22</sup>

Dworkin is certainly correct that sex is inherently “unequal.” In sex the man takes the woman and penetrates her, and it is always the woman who bears the children and gives birth to them. Our slang for sex reflects this: “scoring,” “conquest,” “impregnation,” etc. Liberalism in general and feminism in particular, while applauding free love, is very uncomfortable with the fact that men and women are inherently asymmetrical. Liberals and social justice aficionados desperately seek to make all of us equivalent, as if that will somehow make things better and fairer for all. But the truth is that we cannot be made equivalent; men and women will always be the way they are because of inescapable biological realities. Social justice crusaders cannot even create economic equality, much less sexual equality.

Rather than fulminate over these unalterable differences, why not accept and enjoy them—as the French say, *Vive la Différence!* Why not structure relationships so that the asymmetric masculine and feminine qualities of a couple are employed for their mutual pleasure and benefit, as people have done for centuries? If Dworkin, Daly, and others hate and fear sexuality so much, why don't they just avoid marriage and male involvement, and be exclusively lesbian? Why must they attempt to infect others with their toxins, and pollute and trash the lives of those who enjoy the way we are made, like the couple in The Song?

### **Feminist Theology**

In attempting to construct a comprehensive philosophical worldview, foundational feminist thinkers such as Elizabeth Davis in *The First Sex*, 1971; Merlin Stone in *When God was a Woman*, 1976; Riane Eisler in *The Chalice and the Blade*, 1986; the anthology *Womanspirit Rising*; and others, created a theology (or “thealogy” as it is sometimes called) and a religion to embody their desires, in which “god” is replaced by “goddess.” Female goddesses have been around for millennia, but in most cases they

were subservient to their male analogs. However, the goddess of today, variously called “Isis,” “Ishtar,” or “Sophia,” supposedly supersedes any male god. Wicca, the feminist religion, was founded in the 1950s, and the genesis of goddess concepts coincided with the development of feminism. It has also coincided with the development of the homosexual movement, and a large percentage of Wiccans are also lesbians. Mary Daly insisted that a woman who refuses to engage in lesbianism is merely a “token woman.”

A history of mankind was developed to explain that original human religion was the worship of a Mother goddess, and that goddess worship, along with women, have been savagely suppressed down through the centuries. According to this hypothesis, societies of the remote past were matriarchal, worshipped the goddess, and lived at peace with the environment. In some accounts, such as that of Davis mentioned above, the first males were mutants, and subordinate to females. Women were said to have created all of the meaningful elements of civilization before men even arrived on the scene. Furthermore, these societies were socialistic utopias—there was no private property, no masculine competitiveness, and no social hierarchies. Everyone had what they needed, there was no hoarding of wealth, and all things were shared.

But tragically, these societies were crushed by evil, male-led tribes who conquered the defenseless socialists and enslaved them. These malicious patriarchal groups, culminating in the Roman Empire, then invented Christianity as a means of denigrating women and holding them down. Through the centuries, the church has violently suppressed goddess worship, supposedly killing millions of witches, who, in reality, were innocent goddess-worshippers, and keepers of the ancient flame.

Today, these destructive forces are said to have run amok to the point that they are supposedly in danger of destroying the entire world. The crisis in western civilization is allegedly a sign that the male god’s reign is ending, and the goddess is waiting to lead us into a New Age of peace and harmony. We must therefore jettison patriarchy and all of its supporting institutions: male-god religions, monogamous families, and all male-based hierarchies of power. If we fail to do this, we may be facing the end of civilization and life on the earth. The feminist theological agenda is therefore focused on environmental alarmism, the destruction of Christianity, the magnification of female politicians and female power, and the replacement of capitalistic economic systems with various forms of socialism and environmentalism.

In reading the above-mention “thealogy” books, one is struck with the thought that perhaps this is bizarre science fiction about an imaginary Amazonian world, but the authors are, in all seriousness, attempting to present these fantasies as history. One is also struck by the huge scholastic effort expended to grind their axe, and to prop up their passionately felt concepts.

### **Defense of Feminist Historical Fantasies**

Defense for this worldview comes primarily from art historians, who, in their examination of ancient artworks, often state their confidant interpretation of what an object means, in the same manner that evolutionists have created pictures of hairy apemen based on a few ancient bones. For example, the Venus of Willendorf figurine of a pregnant female, and similar ancient objects were often touted as being Mother-goddess

statues, even though they may also have been fertility figures, good-luck charms, dolls, or even ancient pornography. No one knows for sure.

Despite intensive investigations and huge research funding, hard historical and archaeological evidence has eluded feminist scholars. They have desperately searched for any scraps of evidence for ancient matriarchies and socialistic, egalitarian societies in order to support their theories. For a while, hope was placed on Catul Hayuk in Turkey, on ancient Malta, and on the Minoan society of ancient Crete, all of which were thought to be matriarchal. However, as these areas were more fully explored, feminist hopes were dashed, as it has turned out that these societies were much more patriarchal than our own.

On Crete, for example, goddess devotees made much of a few pieces of artwork that seemed to depict males and females functioning in an egalitarian manner. The Minoans may have indeed treated women better than did surrounding nations, but there is a mountain of ignored evidence that the Minoan culture was in actuality a “chiefdom society,” led by men, with females being subordinate to males, as was typical in ancient times.

Like the Minoans, Celtic society was supposedly more egalitarian than others, but close examination reveals that in general, males had much more control over females than today, and the Celtic objects of worship were phallic rather than female. The Gnostic Cathars were also said to treat men and women equally, but the Cathar leadership positions were exclusively male, and Cathar women functioned more-or-less as nuns in the Catholic Church, without being cloistered. Thus there is no evidence whatsoever for ancient female-controlled or even gender-egalitarian societies.

## Defense of Socialistic Utopias

The next element that must be defended by feminist scholars is the concept of ancient, prosperous, socialistic utopias, free of property rights and male competitiveness. Absolutely no evidence of such societies has ever been found either, and how a socialistic, female-led society, either ancient or modern, could ever have survived, let alone prospered, is never explained or even seriously considered. It is ironic that the concept of ancient socialistic matriarchies was developed only in the comfort of contemporary American academia, for which all of the buildings were built and the salaries paid for by a free-market economy.

Europe and especially France have been filled with radical socialistic thinkers since the French revolution of 1789. They generally believed that a utopia could be created if private property were abolished, all goods and services were somehow divided equally, the church and Christianity was eliminated, and morality was self-defined. For decades throughout the nineteenth century, Paris was the capital of leftist thinkers, which despite the complete failure of the French revolution to produce Liberty, Equality, or Fraternity, continued their collectivist dreams. When the Bolsheviks seized power in the October revolution of 1917, the French communists were their biggest cheerleaders, but fortunately for the French, they were spared a similar takeover, and therefore never had to actually live under communism, as did the people of Russia and China. Having never experienced the reality of a truly socialistic government, they could not believe that communist dictators, such as Stalin and Mao, had become the monsters that they were, killing millions of their own people and creating a society of systemic oppression.

The French communists closed their eyes and refused to accept the fact that their ideas were misguided, and this unwillingness to consider the consequences of one's ideas is also typical of feminism. Betty Friedan, whose 1963 book *The Feminine Mystique* helped to launch the feminist movement, was far from the bored and frustrated housewife that she portrayed herself as being. Forty years later she told the real story<sup>23</sup> that she had been a member of the Communist Party since 1942, and had attended numerous rallies and meetings where strategies and plans for dumbing-down and attacking American society were discussed and implemented. It is well-known that one of the main anti-American communist strategies was the destruction of the family in a variety of ways, including the breakdown of marriage.<sup>24</sup>

The study of socialism has demonstrated that, contrary to being utopian, all societies based mainly on socialistic principles have been failures, from the early American experiments under William Penn, which almost wiped out his nascent colony, to the communist/socialist tyrannies of Russia, China, Romania, Cambodia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and others. The major products of these societies have been authoritarianism, oppression, misery, and death. The only place where socialism has truly succeeded is in the context of capitalism, in which it is subordinated to a free-market economy. Juxtaposing the words "socialist" and "utopia" creates perhaps the ultimate oxymoron.

It is instructive to consider why socialism creates failure and how this issue bears on the male/female dynamic. Just as feminism runs aground on the hard reality of male/female differences, so socialism runs into other hard and unchangeable realities of human nature.

The first hard reality is that the redistribution process of socialism requires a human authority. Contrary to being fair, the authority's real goal is to stay in power, and the redistribution process will be used to ensure the continuity of the authority's power. This requires that the populace continually be deceived as to the authority's real goals. Socialists continually accuse capitalist systems of being unfair, but which is more fair—being able to gain success through hard work, or by having to become an insider and kiss up to the authority? As Winston Churchill said, "the vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings, whereas the virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of misery."

The second hard reality is that people care most deeply about what they consider to be "theirs." In other words, private property is inevitable, and far from being evil or wrong, it is the essence on which a successful economy and society is built. The same holds true in male/female and family dynamics; people are jealous, and care more about their own spouses and children than those of others. This is right and good, because no one else will love a child the way his or her parents will. This is not to say that humans are incapable of caring for others and the community, just that their own family and property come first. Furthermore, the wealth provided by a capitalistic society provides funding for welfare, poverty relief, and other community-related initiatives, that would otherwise be unaffordable. It is America, more so than any other nation on earth, which has given vast sums for disaster and poverty relief, and is the most charitable nation in history. The wealth necessary for this liberality has been generated by our predominantly free-enterprise economic system.

### **Defense for the Abolition of Marriage**

Along with socialism, the abolition of marriage is the other key element in the feminist prescription for utopia. Marriage is said to restrict women by subjecting them to maternity and the control of a husband; females would thus be better off if they were single, could move from one relationship to another, and had easy access to abortion to free them from the bother of raising children. Such a utopia would be the true emancipation of women, and in America, this became the “free-love” movement of the 1960s, 70s and 80s.

Free-love means being able to easily move from one partner to the next, and no-fault divorce laws were quickly passed to accommodate this demand for increased freedom of choice. What is more American than unfettered choice? We often assume that all problems can be solved by removing restrictions and providing more choices.

However, contrary to emancipating women, the free-love movement simply created an enormous host of poor and embittered single mothers, who engaged in sex with one or more men and got pregnant. The women were then abandoned by their male partners, who, exercising their freedom of choice, moved on to younger and more nubile women. The character Jenny in the movie *Forrest Gump* is a typical example of this trend. These women with children then found it harder to attract male attention, as a man entering a relationship with her would have to support another man’s child.

A little-reported, but profound statistic is that of the households below the poverty line in today’s America, a staggering *90-plus percent* are headed by single females. Indeed, in the United States, the poverty problem *is* the problem of single female-headed families, many of which were created by the free-love movement and the Great-Society welfare initiatives. There should be a huge outcry from these women and their families against the feminists, lawyers, and politicians who created these conditions. Unfortunately, these people do not understand the true causes for their misery, and how they have been screwed over by the system.

## Defense of Matriarchy

Next, the question of matriarchy must be considered. The main authority cited by feminist writers, and one of original unwitting popularizers of the fictional Amazons, was J.J. Bachofen, who wrote the book *Das Mutterrecht* (the “Mother-right” or “Mother-law”) in 1861. He believed that all civilizations pass through a matriarchal phase, and cited literary evidence from a number of ancient Greek-related societies to make his point. But in keeping with his romantic roots, he picked only the few pieces of evidence that supported his perspective and ignored the rest. The timing of his book was also unfortunate, in that it appeared just before comprehensive archaeological studies were begun, and which ultimately demolished the entire thesis of his argument. Nevertheless, contemporary feminists have adopted *Das Mutterrecht* as one of their seminal texts. However, Bachofen’s ironic conclusion was that the ultimate and best condition of societal development is patriarchy. The English translation of *Das Mutterrecht*, done by a feminist organization, is therefore abridged, and the translators simply left out the parts that were inconvenient to their theories. Feminism’s seminal text on matriarchy is thus a deceptively abridged version of a discredited book.

Anthropology has decisively shown that no matriarchies exist anywhere in the world, nor is there any evidence that any true matriarchies have ever existed in the entire

history of humanity. Given the innate biological and psychological differences between males and females, it is highly unlikely that a matriarchal group could ever have begun or survived for any period of time. As the anthropologist Stephen Goldberg states in *The Inevitability of Patriarchy*,

There has never been a society that has failed to associate authority and leadership with men. No anthropologist contests the fact that patriarchy is universal. Indeed, of all social institutions, there is probably none whose universality is so totally agreed upon.<sup>25</sup>

There have been matriarchal elements in many societies, such as the worship of female gods, and occasional powerful queens. Some societies and groups have matrilineal elements, such as inheritance and property rights being passed through the female side. But a detailed examination of past societies reveals that in general, men ruled and dominated women much more completely than in the western world of today.

### **Defense of the Persecuted Goddess Worshippers Theory**

Finally, the assertion of a continuous thread of secret goddess worshippers who have existed throughout history, and have periodically been ruthlessly suppressed by evil, patriarchal Christians, must be addressed. As in the case of previous assertions, this one is also a complete fabrication. There have been cultures that included the worship of goddesses as part of their religious milieu, but virtually all of these were ancient (e.g., Babylon, Assyria, and Egypt), and there has never been any sustained thread of goddess worship from the ancient past. Given the universality of patriarchy, the worship of female deities should be a rare occurrence, and that is indeed what the historical and archaeological evidence demonstrates.

The idea that females could and should be superior in power to males, and that the goddess should rule over the god, is a very recent concept. The French Revolution of 1789 and the English/German Romantic movement of Shelley, Goethe, and others set the stage, but this was not fully stated until the middle of the nineteenth century. The first to write of this was Jules Michelet, the frustrated French revolutionary, who was a contemporary of Bachofen, and who was deeply involved in the occult. He wrote his influential book *La Sorcière* ("The Sorceress") in 1862, one year after *Das Mutterrecht* was published. He asserted that women are "natural sorceresses," and that magic and the occult is the religion most natural to females. Michelet could thus be considered the inventor of "white" witchcraft, which in the twentieth century blossomed into neopaganism and Wicca. Ironically, Wicca was also founded by a man—Gerald Gardner—and did not come into existence until the 1950s.

Many strains of magic have existed throughout history—hermeticism, kabbala, tarot, divination, Rosicrucianism, Theosophy, etc. But magic and the occult were historically the preserve of men, with women involved typically in peripheral ways. Michelet attempted to demonstrate that the long traditions of magic were actually secret goddess worship rituals, performed by powerful women. These women were then supposedly persecuted by insecure men, who saw goddess worship as a threat to their dominance. *La Sorcière* was undoubtedly one of the main sources for Matilda Gage in

her 1893 book *Women, Church and State*, in which the nine million burned witches statistic was first concocted.

### **Conclusion on Feminist Theology**

Feminist theology and history is thus fantasy and deception, with no religious, historical, or anthropological foundation. Philip Davis in his book, *Goddess Unmasked*, sums up the evidence against it, which is devastating:

Not a single [ancient society] provides clear evidence of a supreme female deity; not a single one exhibits the signs of matriarchal rule, or even of serious power-sharing between the sexes; not a single one displays social egalitarianism, non-violent interpersonal and interstate relations, and ecological sensitivity which we have been led to anticipate. In each of these cases, the story of the Goddess is a fabrication in defiance of the facts.<sup>26</sup>

One would think that goddess worshippers would be distressed that their religion is based on concocted fallacies and lies. However, these individuals “feel” rather than “think,” because thinking is largely logical, left-brained, and therefore male. Feminists subordinate thinking beneath feeling when there is a conflict between the two. As Philip Davis indicates:

Virtually none of the Goddess books deals directly with factual challenges to their story. Instead, we are most likely to encounter one or both defenses to the Goddess: the irrelevance of men and their opinions, or the irrelevance of truth itself.<sup>27</sup>

Thought and logic (i.e., evidence and arguments that demonstrate the fallacies and deceptions of feminism) is a-priori misogynistic and anti-female, and can thus be safely vilified and ignored. In the future, if feminists can gain a sufficient plurality in congress, it will be criminalized as hate speech. Lies on behalf of feminism are tolerated and even encouraged because of the overriding importance of imposing their vision on society. Thus, doctrinaire feminists exist in the tightly-wound ideological cocoon, protected from truth, which, if allowed to penetrate, would shatter and destroy their worldview.

When a political movement defines “choice” not in terms of what people do and want, but what they would do and want if society didn’t oppress their Secret Selves [i.e., whatever the movement wishes to have, if reality was entirely plastic, and morality was completely fungible], then there is no way to check ideology against reality... In this way, essentially authoritarian [socialistic] political philosophies can be disguised, even to those who hold them, as democratic and caring... As one very nice radical feminist cheerfully proposed to me in a debate, “We don’t even have the language yet to describe what society will be like when men and women truly participate equally in both public and private realms.”<sup>28</sup>

Despite this elaborate framework, and perhaps because of its indefensible nature, the feminist/goddess/Wiccan movement does not insist on agreement with its theological

tenets. In keeping with its roots in Romanticism, people can believe whatever they want to believe—the important thing is agreement with basic feminist principals. Some worship the goddess Isis, others seek communion with “Sophia” (supposedly the world spirit of wisdom and mother earth), and yet others approach from a purely humanist/atheistic viewpoint, ignoring all gods, goddesses, and spirits. The latter engage in feminist worship rituals merely for the engendered feelings and associations. The movement also reaches out to those in the traditional religions of Judaism, Catholicism, and Protestantism, where goddess theology is dismissed out of hand, but who have been instrumental in the production of gender-neutral Bibles, the elimination of references to God as “he,” and the complete reinterpretation or dismissal of all biblical passages having to do with the submission of wives to husbands.

### **The Feminist Political Agenda**

Some reading the above would say, “Yeah, we knew all the time that feminist history/theology was pure nonsense and made-up myth. So what? These women are just trying to tell a story and have their own dreams. Give them a break!” Also, as previously stated, feminism is a broad movement, and there are many who would consider themselves to be “feministic” without buying into its entire program.

Nevertheless, contemporary thinking about male/female issues has been deeply influenced by radical feminists. If they had kept to themselves, few would have issues with them. The problem is that they are not content with simply doing their own thing. Rather, they want to foist their views on everyone else.

The purpose of going to such great lengths in portraying ancient matriarchal utopias is, quite explicitly, to use them as models for contemporary social reform... This statement of the necessity of belief [in feminist history and theology] is almost creedal; Goddess books, accordingly, should be seen as professions of faith, and their authors as neopagan evangelists<sup>29</sup>

Feminists did not study the past in order to gain insight about ancient societies. Rather, they already had a series of preconceptions firmly in place, and then attempted to twist the past to conform to their beliefs, so that they could use history as one more political weapon. On the back cover of one edition of Elizabeth Davis’ book *The First Sex* (which claimed that women were created first), is the statement, “The present intolerable world situation...cannot even begin to ease until the basic argument [of this book] is accepted by all schools and universities.”

Given the fact that females in general are still interested in traditional female pursuits, many women balked at the feminist message, as Friedan’s quote above suggests. Feminists therefore formed political pressure groups, such as NOW (National Organization for Women), and eventually they infiltrated and enlisted the aid of government and the media to censor contrary views and coerce women into their way of thinking, by a constant drumbeat of negativity and scorn heaped on femininity and homemaking. Claiming to speak for all women, the women’s movement generated confusion, fear, uncertainty, anxiety, and depression in the lives of many women who in their heart wanted to devote their lives to their husbands and children, but have been told by society that such a desire is debased and worthless.

To the extent possible, the women's movement has become totalitarian, with government mandates; day-care funding; Title X subsidies for Planned Parenthood in the hundreds of millions; radical protections for abortion clinics (the use of RICO statutes against abortion protesters); abortion for teen girls without parental knowledge or consent; legal fees paid to the ACLU by the government; Title IX legislation requiring equal funding for male and female sports programs; politically-correct requirements on the research earning federal support; elimination of the military restrictions on women in combat; intense pressure on every significant all-male institution to admit women; and departments in most print and broadcast media organizations dedicated to censorship and the elimination of content questioning feminist thinking. Feminist groups in congress attempt to control and dictate all legislation affecting women and families. Some western countries, such as Sweden, have gone so far as to financially penalize families where the wife stays home to raise her children.

Understanding feminist theology helps us understand a number of trends in contemporary society, such as: 1) The quasi-religious nature of extreme leftist environmental groups such as PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals); 2) The bending of virtually all public school science teaching toward environmental concerns, the constant focus on and guilt over how society is supposedly trashing the planet, and the totalitarian push for the acceptance of global warming theory in spite of substantial evidence to the contrary; 3) Continual efforts to socialize society and increase government influence; 4) Continual attempts to degrade men and especially white males; and 5) The renewed push for ERA-style initiatives (the current legislation is known as CEDAW) that will eliminate all gender differences, with severe penalties for gender-biased statements, just as racial faux-pas by whites are currently treated.

Divorce and abortion are the sacraments of feminism, and supporters of the women's movement will fight to the death to preserve no-fault divorce and *Roe v. Wade*. Yet these represent a deep betrayal—a deliberate trashing of oath and life, which should be held in high regard. They represent a profaning of that which should be holy. Radical feminists are thus more misogynistic than men. However that is not strictly true, as feminism has attempted to redefine the word “misogyny” from “hatred toward women” to mean “anyone who opposes feminist thinking.”

### **Male Participation in Feminism**

It also must be noted that the problems of feminism are not simply “those #\$&@ women”—it is equally a male issue. Male support may come from men who feel that women can be just like men and should be given that opportunity, from the gay and transgendered community, or from those who have been cowed by the continual braying of the feminist media. However, there is a darker side: virtually all special protections for girls and women have been removed on the theory that males and females are now equivalent and thus no protection should be necessary.

This plays into the “f\*ck em and forget em” mindset of many men. It is the bachelor dream of sex with no commitments, no kids to worry about, with a fresh woman who can be had for much less than a prostitute (in addition to being more expensive, prostitutes are often jaded and carry a much higher AIDS/STD risk). The fact that there are no longer many familial and societal protections means that scoring on females is

relatively easy. Why would a man want to get married if he can easily use one female and then move on to the next? The government has now been cranked up to go after deadbeat dads, but as long as he uses a condom (and puts it on correctly), or packs her off to the abortion clinic, or leaves town quickly enough, why worry?

As Christina Hoff Sommers documents in her book, *The War Against Boys*, the public education system, led by the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, and various elements of academia have targeted boys in an attempt to emasculate them. Young men are, as Andrea Dworkin stated, “future harassers and rapists” and therefore efforts must be undertaken to feminize and neuter them, and produce men who are compliant and amenable to female supremacy. Drugs such as Ritalin are commonly given (it was even suggested by one feminist educator with a doctorate that drugs be given to all boys to reduce male aggression). Principals are suspending boys who simply draw pictures of violence, and even the game of tag has been outlawed in some elementary school districts as being “too rough.” Forget about dodge ball. At the same time girls are being encouraged to play rougher sports such as ice hockey and football. Norman Mailer noted that the words of radical feminists, “while extreme, even extreme of the extreme, are nonetheless a magnetic north for women’s lib.”<sup>30</sup>

Despite desires to turn males into household helpers and child-care providers, men typically react in exactly the opposite way. Contrary to eliciting more care from men toward women, feminism encourages the opposite—more male coarseness and disposable relationships—using women and dumping them. “If a woman is a bitch, then I might as well treat her that way,” is how men have effectively been taught to think.

## Feminism Today

In recent years many women have rejected doctrinaire feminism, or at least tried to tone down some of its more outlandish claims. A few former advocates of the women’s movement are writing books, such as Laura Doyle’s *The Surrendered Wife*, and Maggie Gallagher’s *Enemies of Eros—How the Sexual Revolution Is Killing Family, Marriage, and Sex and What We Can Do About It*, which contain some of the same relationship advice that Solomon gave in The Song. As Henry Kissinger said, “The War between the Sexes will never be won because there is too much fraternizing with the enemy.” Laura Doyle states in her preface to *The Surrendered Wife*:

Like millions of women, I wanted my marriage to be better. But when I tried to get my husband to be more romantic, helpful and ambitious, he withdrew—and I was lonely and exhausted from controlling everything.

Nevertheless, as feminism has become less strident, at the same time, it has also become more deeply entrenched in the psyche of virtually all western nations, especially in the areas of government, media, academia, and public education. Thought-police organizations are still operating as before, and the western nations of America and Europe are heavily steeped in feminine thinking.

Supporters of feminism are not evil or bad. They are typically serious people who, in their own way, are attempting to make the world a better place. They are thus are even more dangerous because they are deceived. Continued support requires ongoing

deception, and therefore academia continues to twist sociological statistics, and to interpret them in ways that defy common sense. For example, we are told that:

- “Children are an expensive luxury, and that we would be much better off with a smaller population.” Reality: the birth rate in America and Europe is below replacement levels, and this will have disastrous implications for social security and many other aspects of the economy. Western societies are dying.
- “A wife’s earning are much more important than her child-rearing efforts, which can easily be assumed by schools and daycare. American men have come to expect that their wives will work, and often feel that dedication to children is less important than earning a paycheck. A wife’s desire to stay home with her young children is therefore a needless luxury and a waste of her time.” Reality: the efforts of a wife to provide a loving environment for both children and husband typically provide much more happiness and satisfaction for everyone than the money she could have earned, and are often essential in raising successful children. Contrary to the idea of the homemaker sitting at home, watching soap operas, and eating bon-bons, raising children is a serious challenge, often harder than working at a job, which is why government and public schools fail so badly at assuming the parental mantle. Successfully bringing up the next generation is hard work, but it is also a deeply rewarding effort, worthy of much study and energy. The home-schooling movement demonstrates that kids educated at home are typically more self-disciplined, more intelligent, and better socially adjusted than their public school peers.
- “Children do just fine in institutional daycare and, in some cases, do better than with a mother at home.” Reality: children are certainly resilient and there are exceptions to every rule, but those in daycare with little parental contact are more passive-aggressive, more peer-dependent, and less secure and happy than those at home or with relatives. The children who do better in day-care are typically only those who have dysfunctional parents in the first place. Unhealthy environments are another little-explored daycare problem—consider the impact of many small kids crawling on a communal floor and continually putting everything into their mouth.
- “Divorce is unpleasant, but children recover; it is more important to preserve the freedom and choices of the wife and husband.” Reality: divorce is necessary in some cases, but it is a great evil. It is usually a disaster for children, causing guilt, long-term bitterness, and feelings of betrayal. With easy divorce, the secure foundation that children and even adults crave is easily destroyed, generating profound insecurities that are very difficult to overcome. Rather than providing resolution, divorce often makes problems worse, as parents fight over visitation rights and other issues. They waste a significant portion of their energy and resources on lawyers and on fighting each other, and often use their children as combatants in the domestic war. Divorce usually impoverishes the wife, and typically results in the husband, who would ordinarily pour time and energy into

his kids, losing touch with and failing to support them as he moves on to his next family.

- “Single-parent and homosexual homes are just as effective in raising kids as a two-parent household.” Reality: while there are certainly good single-parent homes and bad ones with both a mother and a father, well over 50% of female-headed households are near the poverty line. Furthermore, the positive impact of a father in the home is well-documented, and the lack of a father creates many problems beyond simple finances. The average kid raised in single-parent homes has many more potential problems—shorter attention span, sexual identity problems, increased likelihood of teen-pregnancy and welfare dependency, lower reading and educational levels, lower feelings of self-worth, greater aggressiveness that generates on-going conflict and discipline issues, and so on.
- “As women assume more power, men will become more androgynized, and will be more helpful with children and housework.” Reality: just the opposite—men do even less housework, and are even less involved with children, especially in households where the wife’s income approaches and exceeds that of the husband. Wives with high incomes are often perceived as a threat by their husbands, who then dedicate even more of their energy and effort to their career, and leave their homes behind. Rather than the home being a haven from the cares of the world, female dedication to power and income production typically creates an environment of resentment and competition. A recent study found that the average American husband spends an average of 37 seconds a day with his own children when they are very young, the least of any country in the world.<sup>31</sup>

What is the result of attempting to abolish sex roles by proclamation?

Men, abandoning a civilized male role, increasingly turn to promiscuous sex and violence as their primary route to male identity. Women remain in our traditional role as caretakers of children—poorer, overworked, more vulnerable to male abandonment and abuse. And children, both male and female, become the most vulnerable of all.

The result is not a gender-free society. If we do not offer our children—by word and deed—a constructive sense of gender, destructive sex roles will emerge to fill the vacuum. When we try to repress gender... our children will eventually emerge with a new sense of gender based on what they observe in the world around them: women are poor and have children, and men make love, money, and trouble. Something very like this conception of gender appears to have emerged in America’s ghettos.<sup>32</sup>

Feminist yearnings and government mandates cannot change human nature. Following is a summary of the problems to which feminism has been and continues to be a significant contributing factor:

1. Magnification of female dissatisfaction with femininity. This is especially ironic, because as women reject the feminine to take on masculine qualities, they are rejecting their own nature, which can lead to intense frustration.

2. Degradation and trivialization of motherhood. Rearing children is said to be a sacrifice and caring for home and family is beneath a woman's dignity. Presumably any woman with a brain in her head would immediately dump her kids in a day care center and go off to work. This is one of the sickest and most disgusting lies of feminism.
3. Dissatisfaction with the opposite sex. With feminist pressures seeking to androgynize us, women say, "where are the real men?" and men say, "where are the real women?" As John Steinbeck said, "The American girl makes a servant out of her husband and then finds him contemptible for being a servant."
4. High divorce rate. The teaching that "if marriage is not fulfilling, than leave it" has helped to generate a society-wide, me-first selfishness. The commitment and self-sacrifice necessary to sustain a marriage is too hard for many, and well over one-half of American marriages now end in divorce. Girls are continually taught that the basic female impulse toward the domesticity of serving and nurturing is a despicable weakness, and that they will be exploited unless they harden themselves. Boys learn that masculinity is not appreciated or encouraged, and often develop passive-aggressive behavior patterns toward women and children—uninvolvement and disengagement alternating with overt aggressiveness. Feminism is not the only cause of societal selfishness and divorce, but it is the probably the most significant factor.
5. Increasing levels of male disrespect and suspicion towards women. Women are continually cast in a victim role (e.g., the Duke University lacrosse team rape case prior to the truth being revealed).
6. Disassociation of sex from committed relationships. Women should supposedly desire casual sex as much as many men do. Dream on.
7. Embittered and confused children. The products of divorced households are children who often have many problems adjusting to society.
8. Abortion and the cheapening of human life. When relationships are transitory and throw-away, and human sexuality is considered to be like animals rutting, than babies are an inconvenience and life itself is cheapened.

The conservative right is said to want all wives to become submissive homemakers, whereas the liberal left wants to turn all husbands into milquetoast Mr. Moms and have all wives leave their children in daycare (or abort them in the first place) so that they can develop their own career. Both sides have their own fixed notions about how things ought to be and want to foist these notions on everyone else.

In recent decades the liberal left has gained the upper hand in the gender wars, and so they seek to impose their vision on all of us in a totalitarian fashion (as totalitarian as can be accomplished in a relatively free society) through the power of government, public education, and the media. These forces have been very successful in exerting pressure, especially on women, who are naturally more concerned with what others think, and with fitting into what the culture deems to be an appropriate female role.

Nevertheless, many men and woman are deeply attracted to some form of the "white knight and fair maiden" paradigm. They feel that the general kind of relationship described in the Song of Solomon is in their blood, but they have kept those desires secret and have suppressed them because our largely feminine society has told them that

female submissiveness is a sickness and a betrayal of womanhood, and male dominance is cruelty and abuse, and should be criminalized. This is simply a lie—reject it and be free.

We hunger for gender differences, and find androgynism to be unsatisfying and even disgusting, while at the same time we are made to feel guilty by our culture for thinking such things. Attempts to force roles on people will never work in the long run, and the feminist message is being rejected as people begin to listen to their heart and follow it, instead of the culture. Small children often understand gender better than many psychologists and lawyers, who have advanced degrees, but are lacking in common sense.<sup>33</sup> Perhaps a child is necessary to tell us that the feminist empress is indeed naked, or at least down to her bra and panties.

As explored above, some feminists would claim that we have entered a new age. We are now supposedly different in fundamental ways from people in the past, so the lessons of history no longer apply. They believe, as discussed above, that masculine and feminine characteristics are simply psychological and behavioral figments of our collective imagination, created by society and by parents. They have a “born-yesterday” approach to history that ignores and trivializes the past, and rejects its lessons because it does not fit with their preconceived notions. But having been conditioned by our culture, and constantly bombarded with messages from advertisements, the media, and government that traditional relationships are abusive, it is hard to go against the grain. Here it is helpful to remember two things: 1) culture has often gotten things wrong—prior cultures also erred, and the current culture’s overreaction in the opposite direction is equally wrong; and 2) human nature has not changed—men are still men and women are still women, just as they were in Solomon’s day.

A reader of the book *Enemies of Eros* mentioned above made this poignant statement on the Amazon.com web site:

I have recently been struggling with whether or not I consider myself a feminist. Of course, I love women, after all I am one, and I want the best for my sex, including equality. However, this book eloquently verbalized my internal struggle with feminism, and discussed its far-reaching destruction in conjunction with the sexual revolution. Looking back on my life and the lives of all the women I love, I can now clearly see how feminism has brought layers of degradation upon us, however unintentional, and I can no longer imagine how their philosophy was ever tempting to me.

## Conclusion

Along with the distortions of Gnosticism, asceticism, and bridal mysticism from the past, the feminist doctrines that seek to androgenize us should be rejected. We have considered above how religion and various cultural forces have warped and corrupted our views of sexuality. In other words, we have considered the negative side of the coin. To turn the coin over and consider the positive aspects—how Christianity and sexuality fit together, follow the link below:

[www.unholygrailbook.com/DocCommentaryOnTheSong.asp](http://www.unholygrailbook.com/DocCommentaryOnTheSong.asp)

Male/female relationships can be corrupted in hundreds of ways, but the answer is not to abandon marriage and the masculine/feminine dynamic, but rather to understand and practice these things correctly, as they are the well-spring from which flow our deepest longings and desires.

God is a hedonist at heart. All those fasts and vigils and stakes and crosses are only a façade. Or only like foam on the sea shore. Out at sea, out in His sea, there is pleasure, and more pleasure. He makes no secret of it: at His right hand are “pleasures for evermore.”

C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*

Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

Romance is the deepest thing in life; romance is deeper than reality.

G.K. Chesterton

Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away, turn, my beloved, and be like a gazelle or a young stag on the mountains of spices.

*The Song of Solomon*

<sup>1</sup> Bonnie MacLachlan and Judith Fletcher, editors, *Virginity Revisited: Configurations of the Unpossessed Body*, University of Toronto Press, 2007

<sup>2</sup> Kate Millet, *Barnard Alumnae*, Spring, 1970, p. 28

<sup>3</sup> David Kiersey, *Please Understand Me II*, Prometheus Nemesis Books, 1998, p. 20

<sup>4</sup> Anne Moir and David Jessel, *Brain Sex*, New York: Dell, 1989, 1991

<sup>5</sup> Naomi Wolf, *The Beauty Myth*, New York: Doubleday, 1991

<sup>6</sup> Christina H. Sommers, *Reply to Left Wing Media Watchdog Group FAIR*, March 15, 1995

<sup>7</sup> Christina H. Sommers, *Who Stole Feminism? How Women Have Betrayed Women*, New York: Simon & Shuster, 1994

<sup>8</sup> Elisabeth Carnell, “Rape Statistics Motivated By Politics, Not Facts,” *Critiques of Feminism*, [www.carnell.com/feminism/rape/rape002.html](http://www.carnell.com/feminism/rape/rape002.html)

<sup>9</sup> Philip G. Davis, *Goddess Unmasked: The Rise of Neopagan Feminist Spirituality*, Dallas: Spence Publishing, 1998, pp. 289-290, 398

<sup>10</sup> Monique Wittig, *La Guerillieres*, as quoted in “Why Women Need the Goddess,” *WomanSpirit Rising*, p. 277

<sup>11</sup> Andrea Dworkin, *Pornography – Men Possessing Women*, New York: E.P. Dutton, 1989, p. 13-14

<sup>12</sup> Andrea Dworkin, *Intercourse*, New York: The Free Press, 1987, pp. 186-188

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- <sup>14</sup> Mary Daly, *GynEcology: The Metaethics of Radical Feminism*, p. 239
- <sup>15</sup> Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Women and Economics: A Study of the Economic Relations Between Men and Women as a Factor in Social Evolution*, edited by Carl N. Deglar, New York: Harper & Row, 1966 (originally published in 1898), p. 62
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- <sup>17</sup> Kate Millet, *Sexual Politics*, Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1969, p. 127
- <sup>18</sup> Jessie Bernard, *The Future of Marriage*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1982, p. 51
- <sup>19</sup> Carolyn G. Heilbrun, *Writing A Woman's Life*, New York: W.W. Norton, 1988, pp. 17, 130
- <sup>20</sup> Karen DeCrow, Letters to the Editor, *The New York Times Magazine*, May 31, 1992, p. 12
- <sup>21</sup> Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*, New York: Dell, 1984, pp. 153-55, 230-32, 243-45
- <sup>22</sup> Maggie Gallagher, *Enemies of Eros: How the Sexual Revolution is Killing Family, Marriage, and Sex, and What We Can Do About It*, Bonus Books, 1989, pp. 147-8
- <sup>23</sup> Betty Friedan, *Life So Far*, 2000
- <sup>24</sup> Arthur Koestler, et al., *The God That Failed*, Columbia University Press, 2001
- <sup>25</sup> Steven Goldberg, *The Inevitability of Patriarchy*, William Morrow, 1973, pp. 31-32
- <sup>26</sup> Philip G. Davis, *Goddess Unmasked: The Rise of Neopagan Feminist Spirituality*, Spence Publishing, 1998, pp. 83-84
- <sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 85
- <sup>28</sup> Maggie Gallagher, *Enemies of Eros: How the Sexual Revolution is Killing Family, Marriage, and Sex, and What We Can Do About It*, pp. 149-50
- <sup>29</sup> Philip G. Davis, *Goddess Unmasked: The Rise of Neopagan Feminist Spirituality*, Spence Publishing, 1998, p. 87
- <sup>30</sup> Normal Mailer, *Prisoner of Sex*, New York: Primus, 1971, p. 47
- <sup>31</sup> Cited in George Rekers, "Fathers at Home," *Persuasion at Work*, April, 1986, p. 2
- <sup>32</sup> Maggie Gallagher, *Enemies of Eros: How the Sexual Revolution is Killing Family, Marriage, and Sex, and What We Can Do About It*, p. 151
- <sup>33</sup> Genevie and Margolies, *The Motherhood Report*, p. 302