

Embracing True Womanhood

The hatred of woman, or misogyny, is the devaluation and dishonor of woman as God created her. God created us to need each other and to respect and love our differences. As we are created in God's image, both the true masculine and true feminine represent aspects of God's nature and are necessary in order for us to operate in the fullness of our God given purpose. Women reveal the true feminine on earth. Without it we will fail to thrive as a people and as a church.

The *true masculine* manifests itself in strength, the power to act, initiate, shape and persevere, in "doing". The *true feminine* is manifested in the capacity "to be", the power to respond, to discern intuitively, to nurture and impart life. Both men and women are damaged when either the true masculine or feminine is not valued and affirmed, as both exist in each of us regardless of gender. For example, valuing both gives women the capacity to stand in their own right, and men the freedom to be tender and relational.

Karl Stern (*Flight from Woman*) records the dehumanizing effects upon our culture resulting from our devaluing woman. He points out the vital role of the feminine in imparting a receptiveness to love, and a "child-like attitude of trust." One can understand why Satan would want to destroy the feminine in men and women since both of these qualities are vital to our relationship with God. This attack is not new, but can be evidenced in the Old Testament in the worship of Baal and Astoreth that demanded the sacrifice of children and devalued sexuality through ritual prostitution.

Since childhood we have been bombarded with subtle and not so subtle attacks on the true feminine. We have heard that women are the same as men. Women are encouraged to assume male roles under the guise of equality. Women are depicted as being sexual objects, silly, overly emotional and weak. Both men and women practice learned forms of hatred of women. Mothers can raise daughters to despise the feminine as weak, vulnerable and liable to victimization. Fathers avoid blessing the intuitive nature and responsiveness of their daughters because they have learned to deny the value of those qualities in themselves. Among the expressions of misogyny, sexual abuse and assault rank among the most destructive. Most girls reach womanhood believing in some way that they are less than men and having been tainted by verbal or physical sexual abuse of some kind. Finally, hatred of women can be expressed in the failure of men to uphold their commitment to women through infidelity and domestic abandonment. When the true male and female are not valued and affirmed the family is eroded.

As with all brokenness that wars against God's creative intent for us, hatred of women can find its end at the foot of the Cross of Christ. God will restore the true feminine to those who seek him and reclaim what was destroyed by devaluation and dishonor. Both the victim and the victimizer may be restored to wholeness by God's grace. Both men and women then learn to value both the true feminine and true masculine in themselves and the opposite sex. This harmony glorifies God and testifies to the beauty of his original plan for mankind.

Taking it to the Cross. (for women)

- ❑ **Confess the sins of misogyny against you.** *"Father, I come to the foot of the Cross and confess the ways I have been dishonored and devalued: I have been treated as less than men. I have been regarded as an object of lust, ridicule, even hatred. I confess the ways that I have been used by others. (Be specific.)"*
- ❑ **Believe that Christ bore these sins for you.** *Father, I choose to feel and to release to Jesus the wounds caused by this hatred. I now choose to release all the deposits of betrayal, anger, hurt and all the effects of this dishonor to Jesus. (Release it and feel it go.) In Jesus' name, I release to Jesus the results of the sins of misogyny committed against me. Come Holy Spirit, and release my heart from the shame and remove the stain of this sin.*

- **Renounce false beliefs.** *Come Spirit of Truth, and show me all the lies I have believed. (Wait. Confess and ask forgiveness for any He shows you.) I confess that I have believed the lies of those who sinned against me. Please forgive me, Father. I receive your forgiveness. I renounce the lies that I am less than man, that I am shameful, dirty or deserving of any of this sin against me. I announce the truth that I am made in the image of God. It is good to be a woman as God created me. I now choose to stand in the truth and beauty of the true feminine.*
- **Break any vows (inward) or judgments (outward).** *Holy Spirit reveal to my mind any vow or judgment that I have made as a result of this sin. Lord Jesus, break any ungodly bonds, release me from any vow or judgment I have made. (Be specific.) I forgive myself for believing... I cancel those vows and judgments in Jesus' name.*
- **Break any generation sin.** *In Jesus' name, I now break the power of any generational sin of misogyny and cancel any curse that has come to me through my family or my husband's family and ask you, Lord Jesus, to stop this from flowing to my children, their children and forever. Lord, cleanse us in your perfect blood and by the power of your Holy Spirit. I declare my family to be free from the curse of hating, dishonoring or devaluing woman, in Jesus' name.*
- **Confess your sin.** *Lord Jesus, bring to my mind any way that I have sinned against others as a result of this sin against me. (Wait, confess.) Thank you for forgiving me, Father. I receive your forgiveness. I forgive myself for ...*
- **Forgive.** *Lord, I choose to forgive those who sinned against me by devaluing me, dishonoring me or abusing me. I now release (person, group).. for (what did). They no longer owe me anything. I trust you with the consequences of this sin. I now bless them in Jesus' name.*
- **Pray the blood and cross between you and the sin.** *In the authority of the true Jesus Christ I pray the blood of Christ and the Cross of Christ between me and any sin and the consequences of that sin. It may not come back to me. Lord Jesus, cover me with your blood, sealing this freedom and healing.*
- **Restoration and healing.** *Lord Jesus, I now ask you to restore to me all that the enemy has stolen from me and my family as a result of this sin against me. Break down any stronghold in my mind that resulted from this. Heal the wounds of my heart, renew my mind in the truth and bring harmony in my soul between the true masculine and true feminine. I now choose to take responsibility to grow and heal in this area as you lead me. Thank you for releasing me, restoring me and healing all the wounds caused by hatred of women. You are my Savior, Redeemer, Protector and Lord. Amen.*