

## Gender Roles and Stereotypes

### Quotes ABOUT Women

“There is no career more exciting or exacting for a woman than marriage to a great man.”  
~Georgina Battiscombe in *Mrs. Gladstone*, 1957



“A man in general is better pleased when he has a good dinner than when his wife speaks Greek.” ~Samuel Johnson (18<sup>th</sup> century English author)

“Nature intended women to be our slaves...they are our property; we are not theirs. They belong to us, just as a tree bears fruit belongs to a gardener. What mad idea to demand equality for women! ...Women are nothing but machines for producing children.” ~Napoleon Bonaparte

“To men, man is but a mind. Who cares what faces he carries or what he wears? But, a woman’s body is the woman.”  
~Ambrose Bierce (early 20<sup>th</sup> century American writer)

“Women are usually more patient in working at unexciting, repetitive tasks...Women on the average have more passivity in the inborn core of their personality. I believe women are designed in their deeper instincts to get more pleasure out of life – not only sexually, but socially, occupationally, maternally – when they are not aggressive. To put it another way, I think that when women are encouraged to be competitive too many of them become disagreeable.” ~Dr. Benjamin Spock

“It would be preposterously naïve to suggest that a B.A. can be made as attractive to girls as a marriage license.” ~Dr. Grayson Kirk, retired president, Columbia University

“Women, in general, want to be loved for what they are and men for what they accomplish. The first for their looks and charm, the latter for their actions.” ~Dr. Theodore Reik (psychiatrist)

“The whole education of women ought to be relative to men. To please them, to be useful to them, to make themselves loved and honored by them to educate them when young, to care for them when grown, to counsel them, to console them, and to make life sweet and agreeable to them – these are the duties of woman at all time and what should be taught from infancy.”  
~Jean Jacques Rousseau

“I thank Thee, O Lord, that thou has not created me a woman.” ~Daily Orthodox Jewish prayer for men

“I know it’s old fashioned, but I do feel that women are just inferior to men in almost every way. So women should concentrate on being just that – women – and leave the rest to men. I’m sure everybody would be a lot happier.” ~Janet Pearce, *Playboy* Pet of the Month, 1969

“I listen to feminists and all these radical gals - most of them are failures. They've blown it. Some of them have been married, but they married some Casper Milquetoast who asked permission to go to the bathroom. These women just need a man in the house. That's all they need. Most of the feminists need a man to tell them what time of day it is and to lead them home. And they blew it and they're mad at all men. Feminists hate men. They're sexist. They hate men - that's their problem.” ~Jerry Falwell, pastor

“[Feminism is] a socialist, anti-family, political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism and become lesbians.” ~Pat Robertson, media mogul and S. Baptist minister

**Directions:** Looking at the quotes above and thinking about your own lived experience, what are some of the stereotypes that are commonly associated with men and women?

Stereotypes Often Attributed to Women	Stereotypes Often Attributed to Men

**Quotes from well-known feminists:**

Men weren't really the enemy - they were fellow victims suffering from an outmoded masculine mystique that made them feel unnecessarily inadequate when there were no bears to kill. ~Betty Friedan

Women have been taught that, for us, the earth is flat, and that if we venture out, we will fall off the edge. ~Author Unknown

The emotional, sexual, and psychological stereotyping of females begins when the doctor says, "It's a girl." ~Shirley Chisholm

I am working for the time when unqualified blacks, browns, and women join the unqualified men in running our government. ~Cissy Farenthold

I've yet to be on a campus where most women weren't worrying about some aspect of combining marriage, children, and a career. I've yet to find one where many men were worrying about the same thing. ~Gloria Steinem

Feminism is the radical notion that women are people. ~Cheris Kramarae and Paula Treichler

A woman reading *Playboy* feels a little like a Jew reading a Nazi manual. ~Gloria Steinem

If American women intend always to keep women slaves, political and civil, they make a great mistake when they let the girls, with the boys, learn the alphabet, for no educated class will long remain in subjection.” ~Mary Clay (feminist), 1884

How good does a female athlete have to be before we just call her an athlete? ~Author Unknown

Because women's work is never done and is underpaid or unpaid or boring or repetitious and we're the first to get fired and what we look like is more important than what we do and if we get raped it's our fault and if we get beaten we must have provoked it and if we raise our voices we're nagging bitches and if we enjoy sex we're nymphos and if we don't we're frigid and if we love women it's because we can't get a "real" man and if we ask our doctor too many questions we're neurotic and/or pushy and if we expect childcare we're selfish and if we stand up for our rights we're aggressive and "unfeminine" and if we don't we're typical weak females and if we want to get married we're out to trap a man and if we don't we're unnatural and because we still can't get an adequate safe contraceptive but men can walk on the moon and if we can't cope or don't want a pregnancy we're made to feel guilty about abortion and...for lots of other reasons we are part of the women's liberation movement. ~Author unknown, quoted in *The Torch*, 14 September 1987

<b>Questions to Consider:</b>
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1. Based on the quotes above, what are some of the issues activists in the modern women’s movement wanted to address? (LIST)

2. How would you define the term “feminist”? ( Consider, what that term includes, who can be a feminist, etc.)

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