

## **Why Christians Shouldn't Cry "Sexist"**

*By Jonathan Andrews*

Have you ever been accused of being something that makes you recoil? Maybe you've been called mean or unapproachable, disorganized or self-centered. Even more insulting is the accusation of being racist, a homophobe or sexist. When you are labeled as one of these things, it's natural to feel a bit defensive, especially when you feel unjustly accused.

I don't know about you, but part of what makes me get defensive is that, regardless of how I would like to be perceived, I am at the mercy of the accuser. And sometimes proving otherwise is very difficult.

For example, I don't believe that I hate or fear homosexual people. I do believe that their view of sexuality is a sin against God. I have learned that expressing this opinion earns you the label: homophobe. In the same way, if you think that men and women have different roles given by God or support the Apostle Paul's view on women in the church you may be called a sexist.

If a pastor doesn't reinvent the scripture via application, that is to say he simply says, "here is what the Bible says without defense or rationalization", he may be accused of supporting chauvinism. When this happens, the typical pastor will go on the defensive. They will say things like, "I respect women", "I think they are a valuable part of the church." "It's O.K for a woman to work as long as she cares for her family too." These may all be true statements, but should we allow the term sexist to put us back as it does? I think not, and here is why.

"Sexist" is an unbiblical word because it embraces a feminist viewpoint. Feminism is by nature at odds with the Bible. It is a modern assault on God's creative abilities. It is at heart Darwinian and does not trust the creation account found in the Bible. This type of thinking implies that the difference in the sexes is merely a chance development rendered by millions of years of evolution caused by random, ingenious and successful adaptation. The suggestion is that it could have gone either way. The reality is that it couldn't have gone either way.

Christian feminism is even more confusing. If one wants to support a feminist agenda and still believe in God, they must believe that God's design is broken. They must either think that God is unfair or that the scripture we have doesn't reflect His design.

But the scripture teaches that the system was broken by sin, and that men and women both have guilt in this brokenness. God is without blame.

To put it another way, if you are willing to say that a God created them male and female (a typical Christian value), there are only two ways to arrive at feminist thought. Either God got it wrong, or that men interpreted the Scriptures incorrectly for their own gain. This accusation fails to recognize personal sin as the problem. It is almost always focused on fixing the others or redefining what God meant to say.

Because the typical feminist doesn't think Biblically about God and what He has created, their approach to the sin problem is often irrational. For example men and women can look at themselves and see a difference in the way they are made, but it is common to hear messages such as, "you can do anything a man can do" or "follow your heart". Such statements are misleading and not true. The sexes were created by God to be different and complimentary.

The Bible best describes the real issue. Genesis 3:16 most accurately describes what we see around us. Evolution falls short when explaining heartache between the sexes. The curse began a struggle for power, and a rule given to one of the sexes, not both.

Living in a fallen world complicates the issue. We know that men have acted maliciously. Abuse by a man against a woman should not happen. It is sin. If all men would treat their wives and daughters as God has prescribed, would we have such pain? We find ourselves sympathetic to the plight of women because men throughout history have treated women with evil and given them true cause for accusation and recompense. There are men who despise and mistreat women, just as there are those women who loathe men.

But does this justify using the secular, God-diminishing term sexist? My charge to Christians is to be careful not to confuse acknowledging the God-given strengths and weakness of either sex with abuse or oppression.

We must talk openly and honestly about oppression where it truly exists. The slaves brought to America were oppressed. The black citizens of our nation of the last century were oppressed and in some cases it continues now. The working poor or "not quite poor" in this

country are now oppressed through the tax code. Unborn children are oppressed by the very ones who should defend them.

There are certainly women who are being abused and ill treated by men, but do not confuse that with those righteous men and women who believe the sexes have been marvelously and differently made. Labeling a person a sexist for believing that women make the best moms, or men typically go bald as they age is both irrational and unbiblical. It's irrational because it betrays what even nature teaches us; it's unbiblical because it discounts what God's Word teaches us. We must focus on the true sin of selfishness rather than attacking God's plan for men and women.

Let us not call a person "sexist" who has only expressed a reliance on Biblical teaching, and has not offered a direct insult, offense, or abuse to an individual?

Often times these accusations are made of entire denominations or church staffs. Making such a judgment about a person or persons you have never even met is prejudicial and betrays your true agenda. What most women energized by this movement really should say, and often they do is, "God I don't really like the fact that you made me a woman." But since Christian women can't justify saying that, at times they may lash out and accuse the men of male chauvinism.

Am I discounting these incredibly hard sayings and the feelings of slight they might cause the Christian woman? Not at all. It is understandable that a woman may feel a struggle with their role in the church or the family. I feel it too. As I look out, I see many who have as much wisdom and intelligence and sometimes more than the men.

It's time for men and women of the church to have the right discussion about the role of women in the church without incendiary labels that are rooted in humanism. Let's turn the discussion back to what is right. Let's talk about honoring and submitting to one another, and loving and obeying each other as Christ loved the Church. I suggest that we stop using this secular, God insulting term.