



What's a Woman to Do?

The Role of Women in
Pagan and Godly Societies,
Ancient and Modern

Small Group Discussion

The Role of Men

1. *What key differences would you expect to see between pagan and Israelite men?*
2. *What views on men would you expect to find the same in both Israel and the pagan nations?*

The Role of Women

3. *What were the key differences between of pagan and Israelite women in the Ancient Near East?*
4. *What do these differences tell us about God?*



**Women are often common laborers
in many societies today**



Women in Training



➤ Traditional roles



A Woman's Many Roles



Se sei una giovane donna calabrese
Se desideri lavorare nella tua terra
e respirare aria internazionale

ARTES, centro internazionale di ricerca e consulenza, specializzato nel campo dello sviluppo risorse umane, ti propone un percorso affascinante di formazione che ti permetterà di lavorare in gruppi di progetto internazionali.

Ti chiediamo capacità di comunicazione, forte motivazione, fiducia nelle tue potenzialità e una formazione di livello universitario.

*Il progetto è finanziato con fondi europei e nazionali.
Tutti i costi sono sostenuti dal promotore del progetto.*

Contatta il numero verde di ARTES per ottenere informazioni dettagliate e/o far pervenire, entro e non oltre il 10 luglio 1998, il tuo curriculum e una breve biografia personale che metta in risalto il tuo profilo, esperienze di studio e/o lavoro all'estero e la conoscenza di una o più lingue straniere, a:

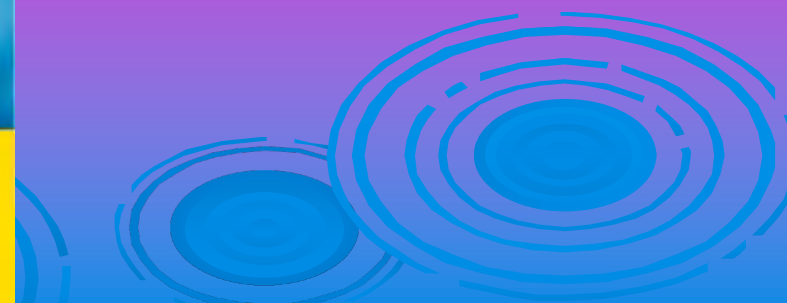
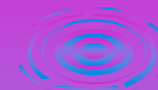
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What About Woman in the West and Urbanized World?





Woman Miner

Bricklayer

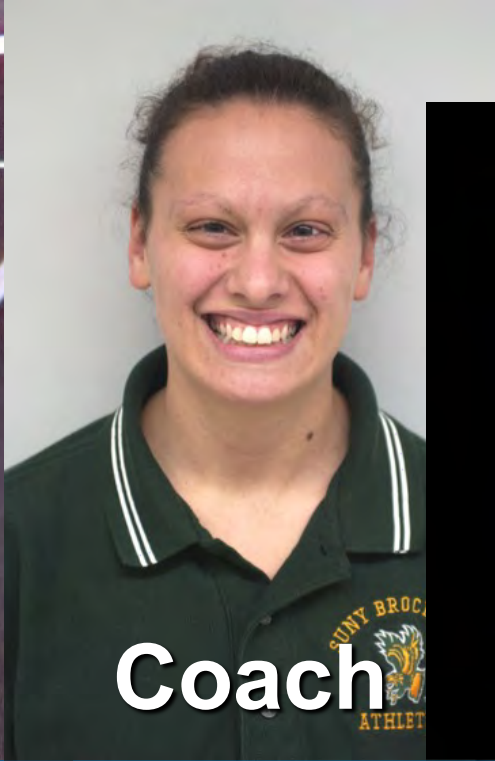


WOW
(Wider Opportunities for Women)

Carpenter



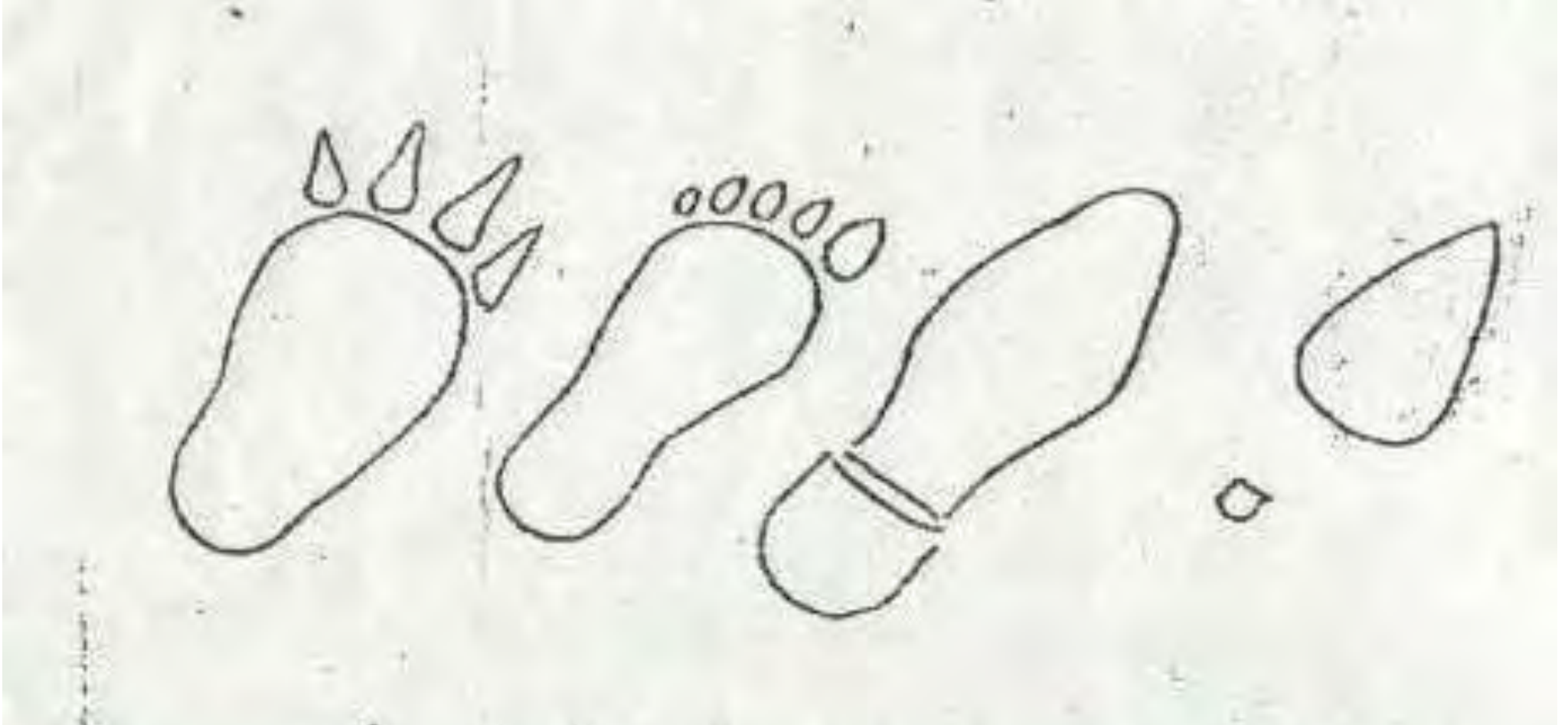
Electrician



Coach



Women Have Increasing Influence in Society



The evolution of authority



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

[TAKE ACTION](#)[SUPPORT NOW](#)[ISSUES](#)[CHAPTERS](#)[ABOUT NOW](#)[HOME](#)**Elect Feminists in 2004***Click here to register to vote in seconds!***TAKE ACTION
GET INVOLVED**[What's New](#)[Press Room](#)[NOW Times](#)[NOW PACs](#)[NOW Foundation](#)

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More than one million people joined the March for Women's Lives in Washington D.C. on Sunday, April 25. [Photo Gallery](#) | [Support NOW's work on abortion rights](#) | [Commemorative T-shirts and buttons](#) | [Be Counted!](#)

NOW Renews Call for Universal, Single-Payer Health Insurance

At a recent Capitol Hill briefing, NOW renewed its call for a system of universal health care coverage.

Disability Victory Hinged on 5-4 Supreme Court Balance

With a 5-4 ruling enforcing the Americans with Disabilities Act against a government entity, the Supreme Court delivered a victory to people with disabilities.

Avalanche of 'Love Your Body Day' Poster Contest Entries Shows Creative Response to Negative Images of Women

The walls of the NOW Action Center in Washington are covered with hundreds of the top entries in NOW Foundation's annual Love Your Body Day poster

Keep on Marching: A Message from NOW President Kim Gandy

Only a few weeks after the phenomenal March for Women's Lives, we've taken a few steps forward, and a few steps back.

Good News for Women: Court Affirms Dismissal of Wrestlers' Challenge to Title IX

Feminist leaders cheered a federal appeals court's ruling last week to dismiss a lawsuit that claimed Title IX threatens collegiate male sports teams.

NOW Celebrates Landmark in Struggle for Same-Sex Marriage Rights

Earlier this week, Massachusetts took a bold step toward equality for lesbians and gay men, as it became the first state to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

**SPECIAL OFFERS**

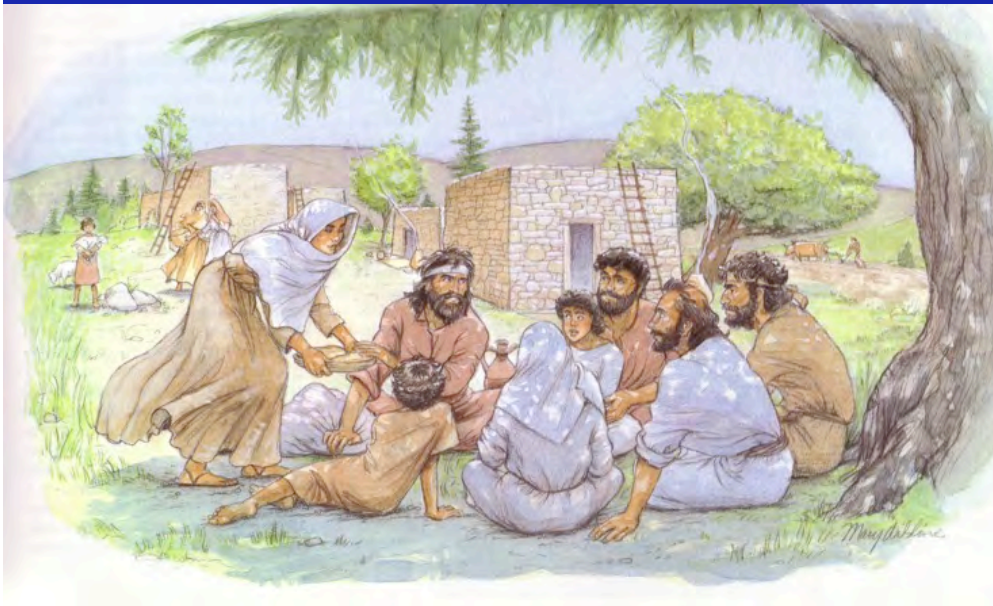
Don't gamble with women's rights...



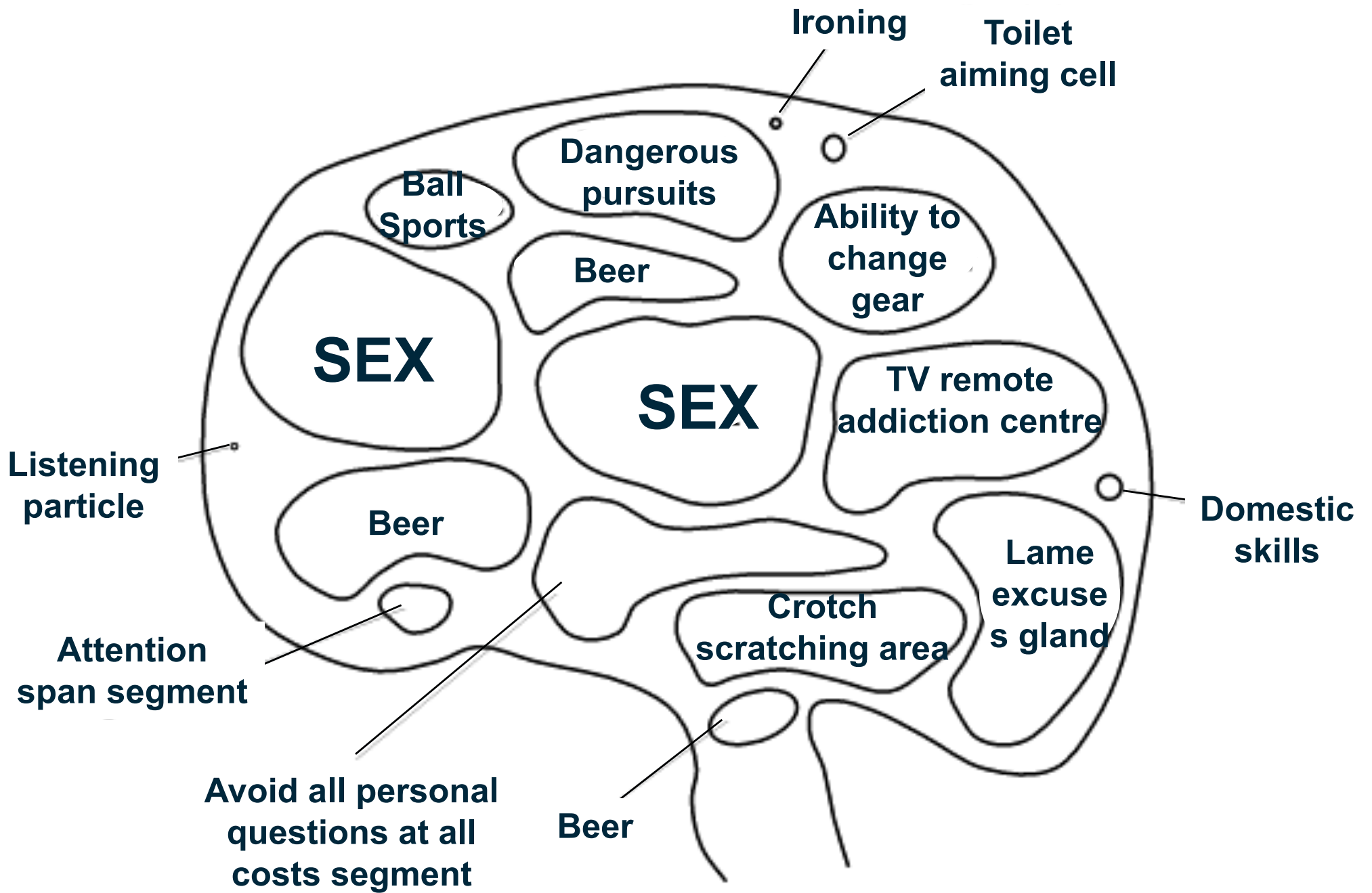
... come to Las Vegas July 16-18, 2004

**THE DRIVE FOR EQUALITY**

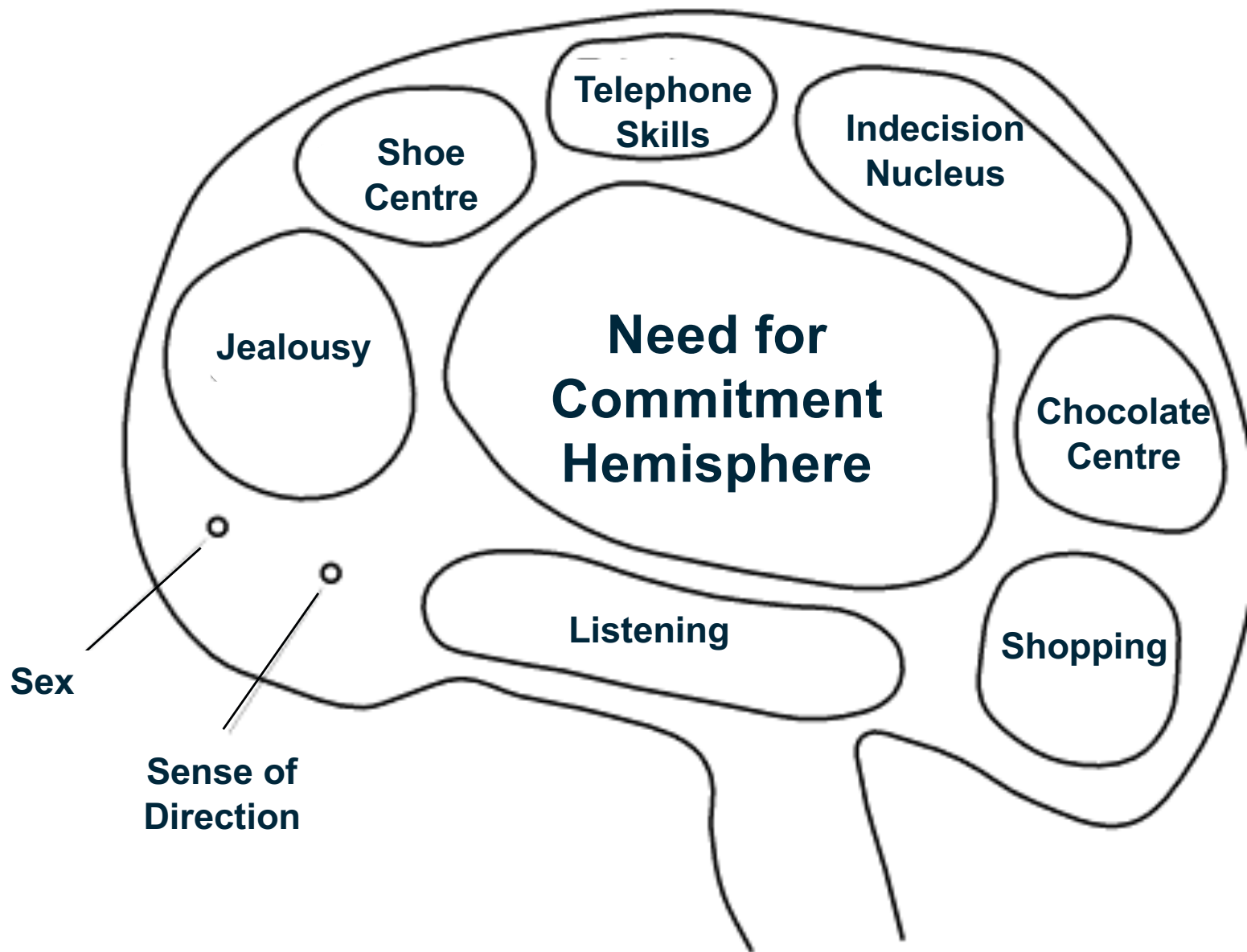
Men in Israel and the Nations



- What key differences would you expect to see between pagan and Israelite men?
- What perspectives on men would you expect to find the same in both Israel and the pagan nations?



The Male Brain



The Female Brain

Life Explained

Man



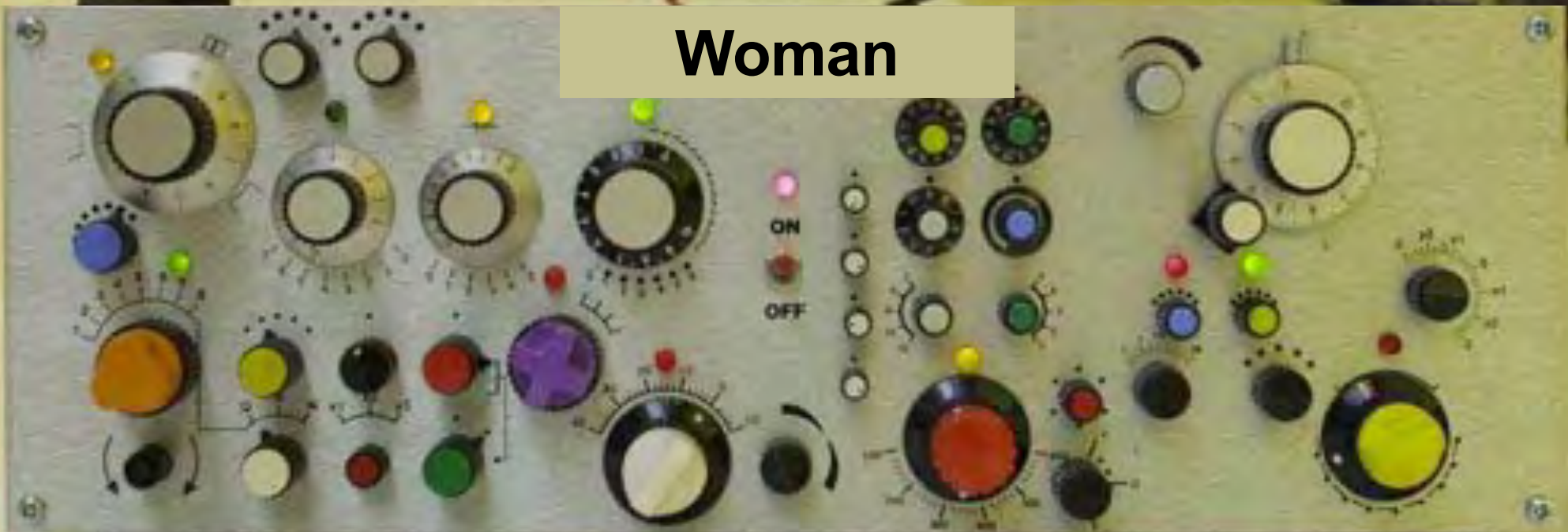
Billie Lutz 1991-2001

Life Explained

Man



Woman





Ancient Pagan

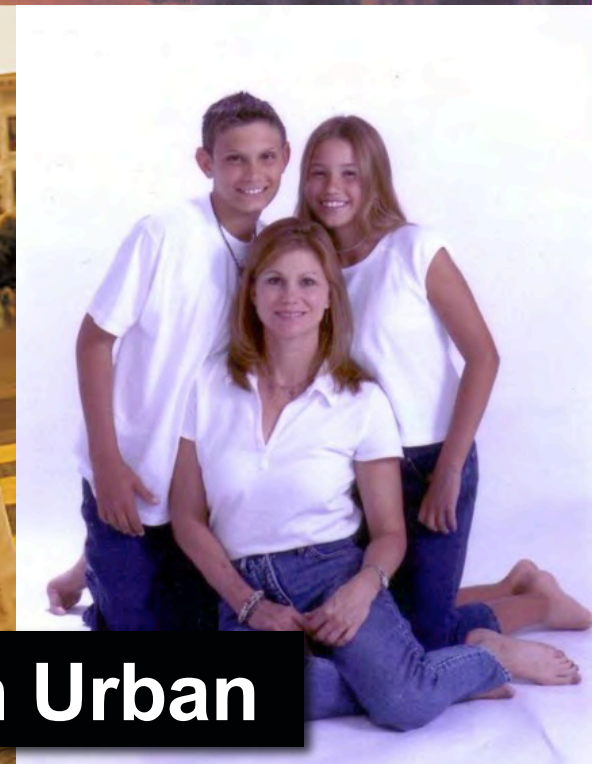


Ancient Israel

**In which society
do you think
women were
happiest?**



Modern Urban



Common Traits of All Ancient Near East Women

Young children stayed with their mother in the home. Girls were expected to help their mother from a very young age. Only the boys went to school.

The women had to bake bread every day. The bread dough was kneaded by hand.

Oil lamps

In the Bible lands, people used small oil lamps to light their homes. They were usually made of pottery and burned olive oil. They gave off a dim light. People were used to the dark. They went to bed early and got up early to make full use of the day.

Small bread ovens were made of clay and were heated by burning wood in them.

Butter was made by swinging milk in a leather container. The fat separated from the milk to form the butter.



▲ Women ran the home. They prepared the food and did the cooking. Most of these activities took place in the open courtyard in good weather. Although most houses contained just one family, all the relatives living nearby would remain in close contact. A woman could usually rely on the help of the other women of her family, especially her daughters.

Common Traits of all ANE Women:

1. Motherhood ideal
2. Served men
3. Prophetesses
4. Concubines/polygamy
5. Arranged marriages
6. Divorce favored men
7. Protected by law
8. Religious leadership





**"Stand back— I'm a receptionist.
What did you want to see a doctor for?"**

Pagan

- Many laws
- Property
- Inferior to men
- Abuse allowed
- Few educated

Israelite

- Few laws
- Persons
- Equal to men
- Honeymoon
- All educated

Why it took Moses 40 years to lead his people out of the wilderness



Pagan

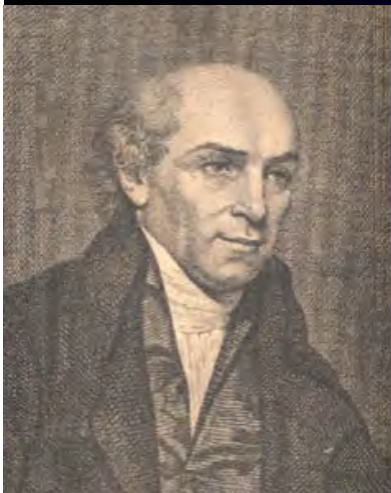
- Veils required
- Prostitutes
- Polygamy rare
- Widow abuse

Israelite

- Wedding only
- Prostitution Illegal
- Polygamy OK
- Widows cared for



Widow



***Sati* (Widow Burning) in India killed thousands until William Carey led to its abolishment in 1829**

Pagan

- Adultery guilt
- Offends property
- Offends hubby
- Varied penalties
- Incest banishes

Israelite

- Adultery innocent
- Offends people
- Offends God too
- Death penalty
- Incest kills



Blurring the Sexes

➤ Male or female?



Talks by
Venerable
Sangye Khadro

Beating The Blues -
How To Be Happy In Hard Times
• 21.Feb.03 (Fri)

The Way To Ultimate Healing
• 22.Feb.03 (Sat)

7.30pm - 9.30pm Free Admission

Tai Pei Buddhist Centre

No.2 Lavender Street

(Walking distance from Lavender MRT - Look out for building
with a Buddha image on its roof)

• For more informations, visit: www.kmspks.org
For enquires, email: events@kmspks.org

Organised by: Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery Dharma Propagation Division

Pagan

- Right to divorce
- Divorce abuse
- Rape victim
- Sometimes heir
- Outside work varied

Israelite

- No right to divorce
- Divorce protection
- Rape immunity
- Always heir
- Outside work varied





**CCC India
Staff Women**

Ancient Near East Women

154c

Pagan

Israelite

- Priestesses
- Prophetesses
- Leadership rare
- Higher social & legal position
- Prohibited
- Rare
- More common
- Lower but protected in home

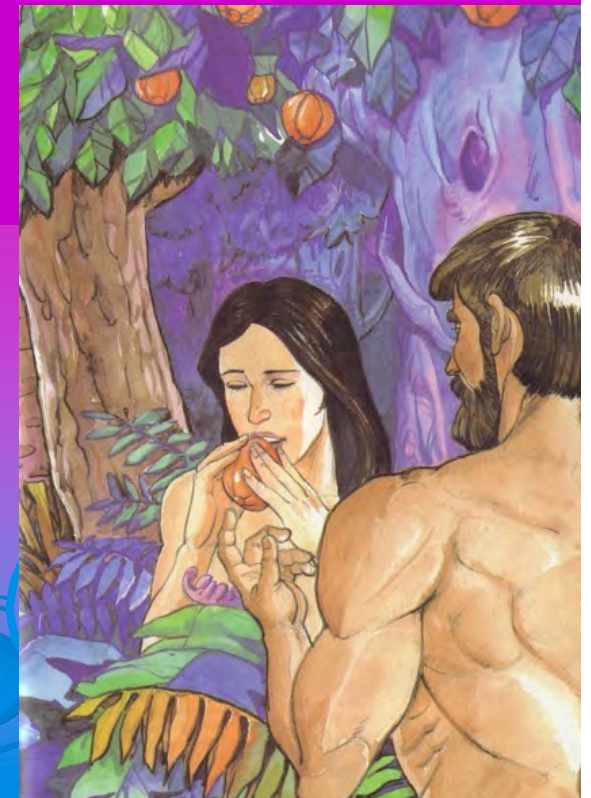


1 Timothy 2:11-15



¹¹A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent.

¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve. ¹⁴And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. ¹⁵But women {Gr. she} will be saved {or restored} through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.



So What's Today's Moral?



**Didn't wash
hands!**

**Women have to look
after men**



Waiting...
for the
perfect
man.



Marriage Turns Some of Us Upside Down

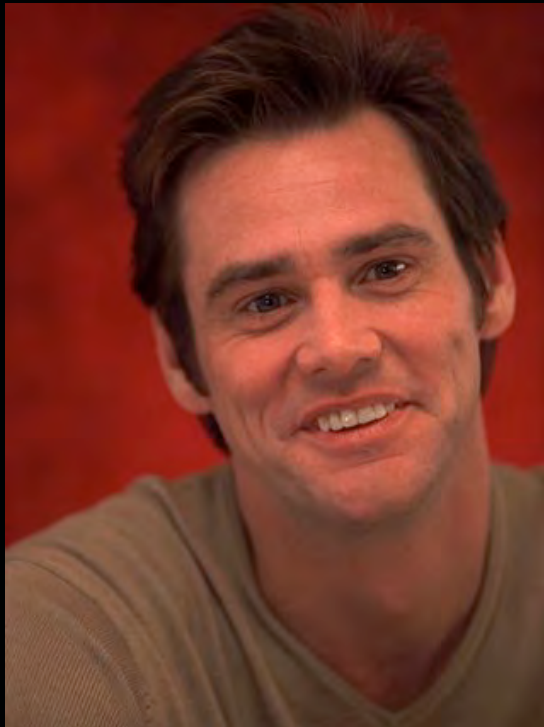


Before Marriage.

After Marriage.

Discussion Groups

"So many people expect that fairy tale where everyone is going to be together forever, but I don't subscribe to that. I'd love for it to happen, but I think 10 years with someone is enough."



—Twice divorced actor Jim Carrey
The Internet Movie Database
(www.imdb.com/news/wenn/2004-04-02)

Discussion Groups

1. What key differences between pagan and Israelite women are the most striking or significant to you? What do these differences tell us about God?



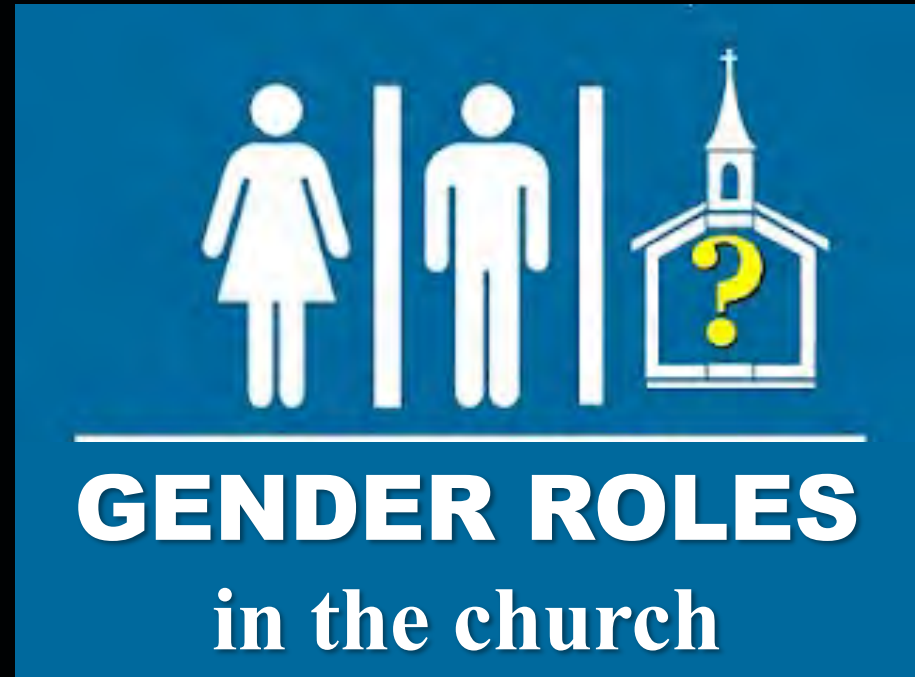
Discussion Groups



2. Does the biblical account of Eve's creation as Adam's "helper" mean that woman was created to serve man? Why or why not?

Discussion Groups

3. Do you think God's basic perspective of women changed from the OT to NT times? Think in terms of their nature, role, and temperament.



Discussion Groups

4. Does the fact that women are equal to men by being made in God's image (Gen. 1:26) and by being saved by grace (Gal. 3:28) imply equality in their opportunities for service? Why or why not?



Discussion Groups



- 5. What did Paul mean when he prohibited women from teaching men or exercising authority over them (1 Tim. 2:10-11)? How does this reconcile with his approval of Priscilla teaching Apollos (Acts 18:26)?**

Discussion Groups

6. Should the same standard for women at their home church apply overseas where fewer qualified men are available?

(Some churches prohibit women from preaching at home but allow this on the mission field.)




Summary


- 1) Jewish women had far greater freedoms than Gentile women
- 2) Jewish freedoms gave Christian women the same
- 3) Some confuse equality in person as an equality of roles
- 4) Freedom for Christian women has given non-Christian women the same in the world



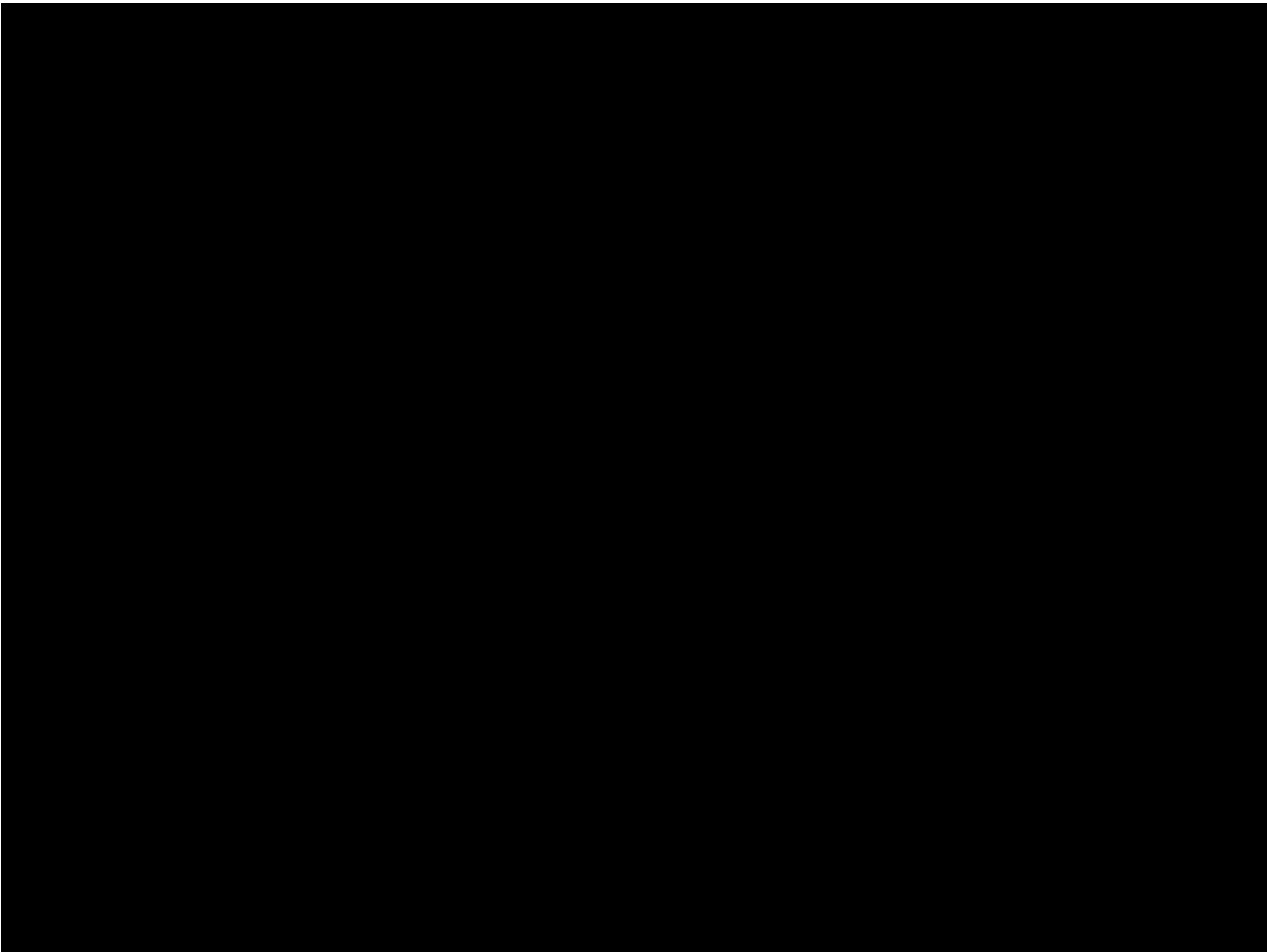
So What?



➤ **Do you men treat women with dignity as equally created in God's image?**



➤ **Do you women thank God for the true liberation you have received in the gospel?**



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