

The quotes that were on the tables 1

“There is a good principle which created order, light, and man, and an evil principle which created chaos, darkness, and woman” – Pythagoras (500 years before Christ).

“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 women at all times and what should be taught them from their infancy.” - Jean Jacques Rousseau (18th c).

“I never knew a tolerable woman to be fond of her own sex.” - Jonathan Swift (18th c).

“If the feminine abilities were developed to the same degree as those the male, her (woman’s) maternal organs would suffer and we would have a repulsive and useless hybrid.” - P.J. Moebius (German scientist, 1907).

“The great question that has never been answered, and which I have not yet been able to answer despite my thirty years of research into the feminine soul is: What does a woman want?” - Sigmund Freud (20th c).

“It would be preposterously naive to suggest that a B.A. can be made as attractive to girls as a marriage license.” - Dr. Grayson Kirk (former president of Columbia University, late 20th c)

“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.

Note: I have not included current sexist quotes for fear of distracting . . . google things like “sexist quotes of politicians,” but be in a good mood before doing it!

(2) The suffragette re-interpretation of Genesis 1-2; the doctrine of creation

The era: 19th century, and the struggle for women’s suffrage and for abolition.
Troubling the waters of sexism and racism (still need troubling!)

a. **Sarah Grimké**

1 These citations taken from *Sisterhood is Powerful: An Anthology of Writings from the Women’s Liberation Movement*, ed. Robin Morgan. New York: Random House, 1970, 31-36.

(1837)

“No one can desire more earnestly than I do, that woman may move exactly in the sphere which her Creator has assigned her; and I believe her having been displaced from that sphere has introduced confusion into the world. It is, therefore, of vast importance to herself and to all the rational creation, that she ascertain what are her duties and her privileges as a responsible and immortal being. The New Testament has been referred to, and I am willing to abide by its decisions, but must enter my protest against the false translation of some passages by the MEN who did that work, and against the perverted interpretation by the MEN who undertook to write commentaries thereon.

“I am inclined to think, when we are admitted to the honor of studying Greek and Hebrew, we shall produce some various readings of the Bible a little different from those we now have.

“The Lord Jesus defines the duties of his followers in his Sermon on the Mount.

“He lays down grand principles by which they should be governed, without any reference to sex or condition: - “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light unto all that in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.”

“I follow him through all his precepts, and find him giving the same directions to women as to men, never even referring to the distinction now so strenuously insisted upon between masculine and feminine virtues . . .

“Men and women were CREATED EQUAL; they are both moral and accountable beings, and whatever is right for man to do, is right for women.”

b. **Sojourner Truth**, “Ain’t I a Woman?” (Alice Walker reading – youtube *CLIP*). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsjdLL3MrKk>

Also cited along the way:

Coventry Patmore, “Angel of the House”

https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_angel_in_the_house/lc7-tqcRI04C?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover

Abby Kaddaby: <https://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/06/arts/television/06domi.html>

And a bonus: When Did Girls Start Wearing Pink?

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/when-did-girls-start-wearing-pink-1370097/>