

in the home of the man who
fears the Lord.

By His Word, the Lord Himself builds the covenant home and blesses it with happiness. In dependency upon Him, the covenant people are to pray for the promised happiness of the family — the young man and young woman for the home they will establish; husband, wife, and children for the family realized among them; and the Church for the families of her fellowship. "Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it" (Psalm 127:1).

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make us the more aware of, the deceptive, crafty, even devious forces which are furiously and relentlessly bent on seducing us in order to destroy the church." For the answer of Scripture, we'll have to wait for the summer issue.

Perhaps, however, we can include another article, written in a similar vein, in this issue's "Parents' Corner." Not only is there a similarity of topic, but the circumstances which led to the writing of it are quite alike. Whereas Mrs. Langerak's was prepared with a view to presentation at a Mothers' Circle Spring Breakfast, this one was made for a Ladies' Circle Hostess Supper, held in Loveland Protestant Reformed Church. The latter is by Mr. Dan Lanting, who writes with obvious experiential knowledge of "The Joys of Parenting." We thank him also for his willingness to share his work with us for the benefit of the readers of Perspectives.

Feminism

Evelyn Langerak

We live in an age when it is increasingly difficult to be a consistently Biblical Christian woman because we are so surrounded with the godless, self-centered un-Biblical thinking of feminism.

Feminism is a totally self-centered life system aimed at rejecting God's role for women. As women began to perceive homemaking and motherhood as an isolating, unfulfilling, self-sacrificing experience in which the woman becomes utterly dependent upon her husband, she began to think, "Do smart women really stay home, making themselves financially insecure, emotionally dependent, surrounded by toddlers and a peanut butter

cuisine?" All the action seemed to be out there in the men's world; while she felt bored, restless, and unfulfilled, yearning for more scope for her talents. Feminism claimed to be the answer to the housewife's dilemma, and women were captivated by the freedom feminists promised.

To many, feminism is seen as a non-religious movement of some wild fanatics and weirdos striving for fairness for women, helping woman to take her place along with man as an equal human being. But is it that simple? What is feminism? Feminism is a religion from the Devil. To feminists, the measure of all

things is woman. Woman is god, possessing divine beauty, power, and dignity. The burning question for them becomes "What will fulfill me as a woman? Anything that interferes with my sovereign fulfillment is to be destroyed!"¹ They are busy exchanging God, the Father, and Christ for an idol made in woman's image. This is what they predict. "God is going to change. Women are going to bring an end to God. As we take positions in government, in medicine, in law, in business, in the arts and finally, in religion, we will be the end of Him."²

The anti-Christian, self-seeking philosophy of feminism has colored the whole perspective of life, including the meaning of marriage, family life, child care, religion, ordination, friendship, homosexuality, abortion, equal pay, employment, vocation, educational opportunity, care for the aged, etc.

For the first time in American history a marriage is more likely to break up than to last until death does it part. It is predicted that by 1990 up to 50% of all children will have experienced divorce and remarriage in their families. Feminists reject the God-ordained institution of marriage of male and female in which the husband exercises headship and rule in love and the wife submits in love for the Lord's sake. They substitute a self-

seeking arrangement of equals, for the purpose of romance and companionship, wherein the woman is free to pursue her own interests, without subordinating them to those of her husband and children.

The feminists have succeeded in making our modern society profoundly hostile to children. To quote a noted feminist author on the subject of our modern lack of affection for children and lack of support for their mothers, "We do not refrain from childbirth because we are concerned about the population explosion or because we feel we cannot afford children, but because we do not like children."³ "Squirming, squealing, demanding infants who emerge to mock the lovers"⁴ are the chief obstacle to woman's total liberation. Yes, babies are the scourge of the age — for those wrapped up in selfish individualistic interests. Motherhood is relegated to the realm of "hobby" — something to do during spare time and that hurts your career if given too much attention. Large families and an adult lifestyle do not mix. Having babies and raising them take precious time away from their ungodly, superficial goals in life of pursuing self interests and making their own name for themselves.

These seeds of rebellion have produced bitter fruit. At present eight million women with children

under six are in the labor force and the number is expected to rise to over twelve million in three years. Mothers are refusing to stay home with their children and are seeking answers to the questions: Who is taking care of the kids? Whose job is child care — fathers, church, government, friends, neighbors, relatives? Over 50% of all mothers with children under the age of three are leaving them in day-care centers, with some providing 24-hour care. Child care has become a 10-billion dollar business. In response to a need, "Chicken Soup," the first child-care center licensed to care for ill children, recently opened. Many more are sure to follow. Churches which are the leading providers of day care are faced with a dilemma caused by the impact, upon the child, of "other than mother" care. The abuse of children in day-care centers has received national publicity and has frightened parents. Latch-key children are the fastest growing special interest group in schools. A telephone counseling program called "Chatter" assists latch-key children with emergencies and helps them deal with loneliness.

Still the women's movement persists and fights for survival. In order to survive, feminists recognize the importance of passing their beliefs on to the next generation. In the name of sex-fairness, all the major school textbook publishers are rewriting

their books to promote a feminist world. Books are written for teens. Mothers are talking to their girls. What are they explaining to them? "Girls have a lot to learn: they must learn to be stupid, inferior, passive, leaning, and adorable. The bringing up (or rather, bringing down) of girls qualifies them to become, not mature, intelligent adults with the right to call their souls and dreams their own, but only make them part of that vast, domestic army that nurtures, supports, takes care of everybody else, that is a housewife. You are brought up to please other people — your parents, teachers, boys, husband, and then, so you don't get out of practice, your children. And you're supposed to please them all of the time. (That's called charm.) The reason for charm is so that when you find yourself doing dishes, scrubbing floors, changing diapers, and all those other mindless, boring, repetitive tasks you will always seem to be happy. Then you will not just be a housewife, but a happy housewife, which pleases everyone enormously. Girls are you tired of being inferior? Then join the battle against the enforced making of every woman into a wife, a mother, a housekeeper, and a second-class citizen."⁵

Many women are uncertain about what their relationship to the feminist movement should be. They see worthwhile efforts, yet

are troubled and repelled by radical feminism. Is it possible to take the "good" from the movement without becoming involved in its radical excesses? Women feel guilty about leaving their children. Experts are conducting studies and appeasing pricked consciences. Are you afraid that your child will forget you're his real mother? Don't worry — research shows that no matter who the caregiver is, a child will invariably prefer his parents.⁶ Furthermore, elementary school students whose mothers work outside the home excel academically, act independently, achieve success socially, and attend school more regularly than children of mothers who stay at home.

As Christian women, daughters of our King, Jesus Christ, we must reject feminism as anti-God, anti-Christ, and bent on destroying families and His church and cause. Let's turn to II Peter 2 and listen to what God says concerning it: "But there shall be false teachers among you who shall bring in damnable heresies and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, while they promise them liberty (or freedom), they themselves are

the servants of corruption; for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage." So we see that the freedom which the feminists pursue is only a terrible bondage to sin and the Devil.

Ours is a horribly wicked, rebellious world. Our children need parents who love God and His Word and who faithfully instruct their children in its truths. Mothers we, too, must speak to our daughters and teach them by word and example the only true freedom — listening to God's speech and walking according to it, doing the will of our heavenly Father.

1 Mary Pride, *The Way Home* (Crossway Books, Westchester, Illinois), 1985, p. 9.

2 Naomi Goldenberg, *Changing of the Gods: Feminism and the End of Traditional Religions* (Beacon Press, Boston), 1979, p. 10.

3 Germain Greer, *Sex and Destiny* (Harper and Row, New York), 1984, p. 2.

4 Scanzoni, Letha Dawson and Scanzoni, John, *Men, Women and Change* (McGraw-Hill, New York), 1976, p. 364.

5 Dale Carlson, *Girls Are Equal Too* (Atheneum, New York), 1973, p. xi, xii, xiii.

6 "Stop Feeling Guilty," *Red-book*, March, 1985.

