

Women: Reclaim Your Feminine Power

There was a time when the rules of contact between men and women were crystal clear:

1. **Sex was best kept within marriage.** Yes, a lot of desire was stifled, but girls becoming women were much more certain of a trip to the altar before starting their families. Women, who might have not been empowered in the boardroom, had control in the bedroom, so to speak.
2. **A man "did the right thing".** If he did get his girlfriend pregnant, he married her. In fact, if he wanted regular sex at all, he knew it was more likely to happen after that walk down the aisle.
3. **Girls/women who "slept around" decreased their chances of marriage to a stable guy.** This was a simple equation that women understood. Those of us who grew up in the 50's knew that a "bad" reputation was indeed a bad thing to have.

Though far from perfect, it was pretty simple. Standards were in. Dressing and behaving in a slutty way was out. There was a connection between how girls/women dressed and conducted themselves, and how they could expect to be treated. A woman knew what it meant to be treated like a lady, by a man who behaved like a gentleman.

I'd say that in some areas, women were indeed in control. They dictated, to a large extent, **who** got into the bedroom, **how** and **when**.

But the feminists, riding the waves of the sexual revolution, created an undertow which sucked downward and out of sight the old dating guideposts. Replacing traditional views, women were taught they could seek pleasure with the same guilt-free zeal to which men had supposedly been privileged. In fact, some might say that women became more than equal to men. They now can proclaim sexual freedom, can have babies with irresponsible males, and still get financial support via the taxpayer or offices of support enforcement. The tragic conclusion to this line of thinking: Men are no longer needed for that most fundamental human task, childrearing.

Sadly, not only did many women buy into that, but so did many men. Adrift without the anchors that standards provide, women forgot their pivotal role in civilizing young men and teaching them how to responsibly treat their women and children. In so doing, they reduced themselves to be all the more objectified in the eyes of those same young males. And, added tremendously to their own financial and emotional burdens.

Alarmingly, many males feel no obligation to assume the responsibilities that make a family and culture strong, because the expectations of them have been minimal. Too many females have absolutely no clue as to the power that they have allowed to waste away, while proclaiming their rights and freedoms.

So, how do you take your power back?

1. **Keep your eye on the prize.** That means knowing that there IS a prize and defining what it is for you. Think and see beyond immediate feel-good behaviors. Is the prize your education? A good job? Is it marriage and children? You'll get to any of these more directly if you know your goals and set a course to attain them. Periodically ask yourself if you are moving toward (or away from) your goals. For example, if you want a marriage or relationship with a man who will be an active, dynamic partner, then hanging out for months (or weeks or days!) with a chronic pot user is a move away from your goals.

2. **Pick your man like you would a house.** You wouldn't move into a home without checking the stats on the place. You would want it to look good, but that's the easy part. You'd have a thorough inspection to check on the foundation, wiring, roof, flooring. Any bank lending money will want a history of insurance claims, i.e. prior problems, as well as knowing it's current condition. You would want to be comfortable with the neighborhood.

In human terms, that means having as much information about your potential mate as possible. What do you know about how he handles money, for example? Does he work steadily and have goals of his own? What is his relationship history? Do you like his friends and family? Are his values compatible with yours? If you are not comfortable with the answers to these questions, then he is NOT the man for you.

And, speaking of men and houses, you wouldn't turn your car keys over to a virtual stranger, so why would you give the keys to your house (and your heart) to someone whom you haven't thoroughly checked out?

3. **Have standards at the beginning (and forever) in your relationships.** Your partner will live up (or down) to your standards. If you're living together and want to be married, set a time limit at the outset for the cohabitation. He won't. Men will look to their women for signals as to how to behave. If you provide none, then you are just as responsible for the outcome as your partner. If you are clear about your values, wants, and needs and these are in opposition to what your man wants, then you're with the wrong guy. Stop wasting valuable time.

The Feminist movement claimed to provide the rationale and means for greater choice and freedoms for women. Women indeed have made gains in the workplace, including stringent standards to prevent discrimination and harassment.

However, as standards became commonplace for protecting women at work, they faded to near extinction in the social arena. The declining influence of organized religion, a generation of males who don't know how to be husbands and fathers, and an abandonment of traditional values in our media-crazed culture have all played a part.

Don't get caught up in the current cultural wave. Decide what you want in life. Don't give yourself away too freely. Have standards for yourself and the man you choose. You may have more power together than you'd ever imagined!