



# FACE OFF

WNBA didn't happen overnight, just like the freedom of slaves didn't either. Issues like racism and sexism can't be fixed overnight. It takes time and passionate individuals to be activists of that cause. It appears as if practices in our society are based on traditions. We are creatures of habit and those habitual ideas are not necessarily good ones. For example, the Plessy vs. Ferguson decision set the precedent that "separate" facilities for blacks and whites were constitutional as long as they were "equal." The "separate but equal" doctrine was quickly extended to cover many areas of public life, such as restaurants, theaters, restrooms and public schools. Thankfully, a new generation emerged with different ideologies, and in 1954, in the equally important Brown v. Board of Education decision, the "separate but equal" doctrine was struck down. Issues involving men and women are also based on things of the past - the notion of how each sex should act, think and so on. Hopefully, over time, as comparable to the Plessy case, this tradition will be eliminated and men and women can be seen as equals.

**Cheritta:** Speaking of traditions, let's talk about the traditional roles of men and women as far as family structures are concerned. I have issues with this. I know that the Bible says that men are the head of the household and I have absolutely no problem with this. I just have a problem with men who are not taking care of their households, yet they are given credit as if they are. It is always assumed that a man is taking care of home (shout out to Dave Hollister), when that's not always the case.

**Anthony:** Leadership is not position, but action. Therefore, regardless of whether a man is given the title "head of the household," if he is not fulfilling his role, he is not a true leader and should not be given credit. I agree that there are a lot of deadbeat fathers and husbands, however, if the women in the households wish to have a functional family, in some cases, they will need to assume the lead role for the sake of the family. The creation of Adam before Eve symbolizes the order God wanted things. God at the head, man under God, and the woman under the man. This submission does not entitle the person to mistreat the one under him, but to simply create a

system of order. Why would God want the man to be the head? That question is as complex as, "Why is God a 'He' and not a 'She?'" Hmm...some would even argue on the contrary. I disagree with the idea that the man should be the only one working while the woman stays home. This tradition may have been accepted decades ago, but times are changing and I can understand the motivation of women to find professions outside of the home. Being a homemaker is a respectable profession, but a woman's options should not be limited to that solely.

**Cheritta:** Let's say the creation of man and woman symbolizes the order God has chosen. That fact alone does not justify men being put on a pedestal. People have to work hard to obtain so-called superior status. That's like you saying that a man should be esteemed higher than a woman simply because God created him first. What happened to people being justified and recognized for their actions? Women are not second-class beings who have to come second in everything. I think the Bible also says the last shall be first and the first last. Ok, so God created Eve from old dude's ribs. A person's ribs serve as protection for all the internal organs. With this said, people should recognize the figurative and literal significance of this. A woman is a man's life support and protection. Without her, he would be vulnerable to all kinds of internal injuries and mishaps. A woman is a man's equal, she is equally important; she just plays a different (and crucial might I add) role. If man could do it all by himself, why was woman created? I know plenty of sistas (of all races) with

and without men who are the heads of their households. A woman is the backbone of a

household and without a backbone or foundation, a structure will fall. All I am saying is, if you are going to sit on that pedestal, make sure you deserve to be there and don't forget the people who allowed you to be able to sit there.

**Anthony:** Unfortunately, women of color have had to fight both gender and racial battles. Due to persons such as Susan B. Anthony, who campaigned for the abolition of slavery and women's rights, women are advancing in our society. I can understand your concern. Men may be given more credit than women. In addition, whites are still given more credit than minorities. Likewise, in professions, especially politics, more whites are holding political offices and heading large corporations. Okay, so let's face it! There's sexism, as there is racism. It's not fair, but it's reality. Are men undeservingly placed on a pedestal? This is possible, but many efforts exist to work on this societal problem. I wish much prosperity to all women. As India Arie sings, "A change is gonna come!"

**Cheritta:** I know very well that things are unfair. You say you believe a change is gonna come, but how long will it take?