

Protecting Women

When a man hits another man, bystanders break up the fight and everyone goes on their way. When a man hits a woman, it's front page news. Why?

“They ravished the women in Zion, the maidens in the cities of Judah” (Lam. 5:11).

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her” (Eph 5:25).



As a Kansas City Chiefs fan, I was disappointed last week to see the story of their star running back Kareem Hunt hitting a woman and being dismissed from the team. A video was released showing Hunt hitting and kicking the woman, behavior that was inexcusable. His termination was clearly justified.

But this episode raises a question that deserves our attention: Would Hunt have been fired for doing the same thing to a man?

Of course, we already know the answer to that question, don't we? Football players routinely get involved in off-field scuffles with other men and, following reprimands or suspensions, they almost never lose their jobs over it. Why is this case different? *Because the victim is a woman.*

Thanks to the current “MeToo” movement, our society is sensitive to the mistreatment of women by predatory men, a burden that has been borne universally by women from ancient times. Contrary to the image portrayed in Hollywood action movies,

women are generally not able to take on and defeat men in physical altercations. They are smaller, weaker, and more fragile than men. That's why the Chiefs were so quick to throw Hunt overboard for mistreating this woman.

But this episode exposes a glaring truth: If women should get special protection simply because they are women, then we are forced to acknowledge that there is something fundamentally different between men and women.

Let's state the obvious: Despite decades of feminist propaganda to the contrary, women are vulnerable in a way men are not. Starting a hashtag campaign, or passing sex discrimination laws, or implementing draconian HR policies to impose absolute equality on the genders ignores the biological fact that men and women have distinct natures, with different strengths and weaknesses.

Instead of enforcing an artificial “equality” between the genders, nature and common sense require that we embrace a more realistic culture, one that shields women (the weak ones) from harm, and trains men (the strong ones) to be their protectors.

What would such a culture look like? In past generations, especially in Western democratic societies influenced by Biblical morality, this different treatment was embodied in a system of behavior known as *chivalry*. In theory, this system recognized women as delicate and more fragile, and placed the burden of protecting them upon good men (husbands) who were equipped with the desire and the strength to provide that protection. Chivalry involved other elements also, such as modesty and chastity, which reinforced the unique roles of each gender. In practice, it was not a perfect system, but it generally provided an environment in which women were protected from the violence of evil men and given an opportunity to bear and raise children in relative safety.

Thanks to feminism, however, that culture has been dismantled and replaced by a fiction that women can hold their own against men by themselves—except when they can't, then they need extra protection—which is most of the time. It's a trip through la-la land.

Yes, women need special protection, and no one should be embarrassed to say so. But with that admission comes the indisputable fact that men and women are not equal. Our social topography should reflect that truth.

— David King