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EQUALISM IN GENDER POLITICS: LIBERALS VS. CONSERVATIVES

Tim Goldich



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ABSTRACT

At its core, feminism is half of gender reality—the Male Power / Female Victimization half of gender reality—presented, and demanded to be accepted, as if it were gender reality in its entirety. Gender politics need not be viewed as an inter-sex battleground pitting men’s interests against women’s interests. Under an equalist system, men’s and women’s interests and issues would be properly understood as intertwined and inseparable—leading to a systemic gender-political framework more effective at providing solutions to the issues of both sexes.

Keywords: conservative, equalism, gender politics, liberal, sexual politics

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40 Under the current system of gender politics, most people understand gender politics as
41 essentially the Battle of the Sexes as it shows up within the gender-political arena (as a battle of
42 women's interests vs. men's interests). It is to be expected that under feminism, we will
43 understand gender politics in these gender-adversarial terms because, at its core, feminism is
44 *half* of gender reality—the Male Power/ Female Victimization half of gender reality—presented,
45 and demanded to be accepted, as if it were gender reality in its entirety.

46 Under a new gender-neutral system of gender politics (what I'll call *equalism*), I believe
47 gender politics can be viewed in a whole new way. Like any other politics, gender politics may be
48 viewed as a battle of conservatives vs. liberals, *not* a battle that pits Woman against Man. In
49 other words, given an unbiased gender belief system, gender politics may be re-understood as a
50 battle between gender-political conservatives (of both sexes) vs. gender-political liberals (of both
51 sexes).

52 I will define *conservatism* as an effort to make the world a better place through a focus on
53 *preserving* that which is judged to be of great and enduring value. I will define *liberalism* as an
54 effort to make the world a better place through a focus on that which is judged to bring
55 constructive *change*. As I see it, both conservatism and liberalism are fundamental, timeless
56 perspectives to be respected.

57 Under feminism's biased gender belief system, we believe that men have *the* power and
58 women are *the* victims. Because we believe that men are *the* beneficiaries of the gender system,
59 we believe that only men could be motivated to *preserve* the sexual-political status quo. Because
60 we believe that women are *the* sufferers of the gender system, we believe that only women could
61 be motivated to *change* the sexual-political status quo. It will appear, then, that sexual-political
62 conservatives are comprised of men and sexual-political liberals are comprised of women. Thus,
63 it will seem that gender politics is a battle of one sex vs. the other.

64 But what if feminism's Male Power / Female Victimization paradigm is one-sided and
65 therefore false? What if our world is not a male heaven / female hell? In fact, what if it all
66 balances out? What if—in the benefits enjoyed / the liabilities suffered, the power / the
67 victimization, the freedoms / the constraints—It All Balances Out between Woman and Man?
68 Under equalism we will come to know and honor the politicized perspectives of *both* sexes. With

69 that *balanced* understanding, the gender-political picture transforms in a healthy way.

70 With the understanding that both sexes benefit and both sexes suffer under the traditional
71 gender system, there comes the understanding that in changing the gender status quo *both* sexes
72 have much to gain and *both* sexes have much to lose. Therefore, members of *both* sexes may be
73 highly invested in *changing* the gender system (a liberal trait) and members of *both* sexes may be
74 highly invested in *maintaining* the gender system (a conservative trait).

75 Should feminism's demand for sisterly solidarity to The Cause loosen its grip, I believe
76 we'll find that gender-political conservatives are comprised about equally of men *and* women.
77 Should men become enlightened to the downsides in their lot in life, I believe we'll find that
78 gender-political liberals are comprised about equally of women *and* men.

79 Of course, there's more to say about all this, but already the potential is clear. Gender
80 politics need *not* be viewed as an inter-sex battleground pitting men's interests against women's
81 interests. Under an equalist system, men's and women's interests and issues would be properly
82 understood as intertwined and inseparable—leading to a *systemic* gender-political framework
83 more effective at providing solutions to the issues of both sexes.

84 Both sexes suffer injustice. These injustices may come out even (balanced), but they're
85 injustices all the same. So, *It All Balances Out* is not a proclamation intended to promote
86 complacency. It is not an endpoint—it is a new beginning! With an understanding of Balance,
87 there comes a breath of fresh ideological air of the sort that promotes maturity, compassion,
88 forgiveness, and constructive *negotiation*.

89 So, again: the Battle of the Sexes need not be a *war* between the sexes. Rather than view
90 gender politics strictly in terms of inter-sex conflicts of interest, gender politics may be viewed
91 like any other politics—a battle between conservatives and liberals—*not* men vs. women.

92 For the problem of a dysfunctional and divisive gender politics that views the two sexes as
93 perpetual adversaries, feminism's Male Power / Female Victimization paradigm is the problem,
94 and *It All Balances Out* is a solution.

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98 **AUTHOR PROFILE**

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Tim Goldich is the president of the Chicago chapter of the National Coalition for Men and an avid member of the ManKind Project, two organizations that variously support men politically and emotionally. He is also an educator and mentor to boys on their way to becoming men. Goldich facilitates the personal growth work of men on New Warrior Training Adventure weekends and of men and women on personal growth weekends called Path to Spirit. He is the author of four books, including [Loving Men, Respecting Women: The Future of Gender Politics](#).

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