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100 Day – Exercise

Write an 8-10 page essay on a contextualisation issue for social change. Page count does not

include the cover and works cited pages. The essay should demonstrate scholarly work, cover

the subject with sufficient detail to communicate a solid understanding of applying foundational

Christian worldviews, and show proper APA 7 style documentation for the resources (works

cited). Follow these steps to develop the essay.

1. Develop your essay according to the outline in the Strategy Worksheet found in the

100-Day assignment document.

○ Identify a social issue or phenomenon needing a Christian contextualised

response.

○ Reflect on Stage of 5 of the Interdisciplinary Research Process

○ Consider the Five Spheres of Life as you consider your strategy for

contextualising a social concern.

○ See sample essays of contextualisation in the PHI 923 Course Resources

folder.

**Present Situation of Social Concern**

In the current world climate, there is a decline in men stepping up to the leadership position that the Lord has called them to. Due to this subservient emasculating position that men have taken on in the 21st century, women have drastically had to step up in leadership positions and roles previously dominated by men, as they no longer function at the level God originally intended as the priest of their homes.

**Social Analysis**

This dysfunctional behaviour of men has manifested in many spheres of life, one of which is the field of education and, more specifically, tertiary education. There has been a decline in the enrollment of men in higher education; men aged 18 to 24 are slightly less likely to be in any full-time education in comparison to women. The gender disparities among undergraduates and postgraduates vary markedly according to discipline such as education where there is an apparent disparity where only 17 per cent of undergraduates studying education are men [(Hillman & Robinson, 2016)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?gh0EgA). This phenomenon has enabled most teachers to be women, meaning that through most developmental stages, young men have been mainly influenced by female interactions. The general underperformance of young men academically is also due to the need for more male teachers and the feminine slant education has taken on.

Women have primarily had to step up in the family as the original provider in the home is less present. The feminist movement and gender equality have further changed the view of the traditional family and household views. Access to the labour market has increased as women become equal to men through education. With this, they can now attend college, enter a career path, marry later in life, and file for divorce, which has contributed to a rise in family instability [(Wood, 2018)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?o7s1AD).

Unfortunately, on the whole, children and families have suffered from both men and women pursuing goals that benefitted them personally but not necessarily the family as an entity. As more women become men’s equals within the household and the labour market, previously held on to cultural and societal norms are shifting [(Wood, 2018)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?DQElfe). Over the last 40 years, the family composition has shifted dramatically, resulting in changes in children’s living arrangements; today, 40% of all children in the United States are born to unwed mothers. Although family structures have changed, having a nonresident father does not necessarily mean fathers are absent in their children’s lives, thankfully some nonresident fathers remain committed to and involved with their children, even when their relationship with the mother of the children has ended [(Cabrera et al., 2018)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?dSYyjk).

Most modern-day church members are predominantly women for their membership, yet the leadership is mainly men. More women in church congregations are consistent, as scientific evidence shows that women report more signs of religiosity than men. The difference between men and women in their religious behaviour and beliefs is considerable [(Francis & Village, 2022)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?rzUFL8). Feminisation is not just a matter of women outnumbering men in congregations; feminine modes of thought, practices, and preferences have infiltrated the church. The increasing elaboration of church decoration, ornate rituals, and musical tastes were all blamed for driving away ‘manly men’ from particular religions that may be more sentimental rather than intellectual and emotional rather than rational [(Francis & Village, 2022)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?ttfOEG). Undoubtedly, these are problems without simple answers. Murrow (2011) points out that; the church system has been specifically designed to reach a particular type of person. Some men and women fit this type, but women are the majority. He points out that because of this, there is a cycle that occurs where churches built upon feminine values, more women than men become enabled with these values, more women become involved in church, and the women in the church further push the church towards feminine value [(Murrow, 2011)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?ZOTY5p).

**Theological/Moral Evaluation**

Ephesians 5 gives an excellent example of how men are to treat with women and specifically their wives;

“25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body [(*Bible Gateway Passage*, n.d.-b)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?1dfd81).”

There is normally much talk in Christian communities about how women treat men in their lives, but if we consider Epesians 5 we see that men have the bigger responsibility in treating their wives, they are to mirror Christ as he is with his church.The covenant of marriage is the closest relationship to Christ’s love for us replicated on earth.

Another relationship mentioned in the bible that speaks of the consequences of men taking up their rightful place in society and at home is the storey of Ahab and Jezebel in 1 Kings chapt 16. Jezebel encouraged the worship of her God Baal while forsaking the Jewish God Yahweh. It should be noted that while the influence of Jezebel on Ahab was the cause of the problems that Israel faced at that time. it is Ahab who was ultimately held responsible as her husband and as the King. Scripture first mentions Ahab this way; “Ahab, son of Omri, did more evil in the sight of the Lord than all who were before him.1 Kings 16:30 [(*Bible Gateway Passage*, n.d.-a)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?Xkzs83)” This statement is a testament to the level of accountability that the Lord holds men to in society and relationships.

**Issues to Address**

**Absent fathers**

Absenteeism can refer to both be physically or emotionally absent fathers, as women are generally known as the caregivers of society; some men have neglected their child-rearing responsibilities.

**Underperforming men**

There is a current phenomenon of men underperforming in educational settings; this can be observed as early as little girls outperforming boys in school. In previous generations, girls had little access to schooling compared to boys, but girls have been outperforming boys in recent years as they have gained access to education. In tertiary education, there exist a gender gap where more women are enrolling in universities, and this has led to an imbalance in educational levels in the sexes.Men between 18 and 24 are slightly less likely to be in any full-time education than women, but on the other hand they are more likely to work or unemployed [(Hillman & Robinson, 2016)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?WcbWve). Especially in the Western context, we now find girls outperforming boys across several educational indicators, including years of schooling; tertiary completion rates; and, performance in national and international assessments [(Ridge et al., 2017)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?aO8l4K).

**The feminisation of culture**

With the advent of Feminism, there has been a demonisation of males and masculinity; there is a general preference for feminine traits. Another aspect can be seen in the gender identity problem that has now pervaded this generation, where there is even a denial of one’s gender. The notion of the feminisation of the Church suggests that the minority of men who sit among the majority of women within church congregations may also feel less comfortable with and less accepting of the dominant beliefs, attitudes, values, and culture that characterise church life. Although there is a lack of systematic research consciously examining and comparing the judgements made by male and female churchgoers, such research tends to support the view that significant differences exist between the opinions of men and women in the pews [(Francis & Village, 2022)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?YgB3BC).

**Promiscuity**

Womanising is also a symptom of men not being fully aware of their identity in Christ and therefore perceive the pursuit of many women as a show of their masculinity or male prowess.

**Marriage suitability**

There are significant deficits in the supply of men suited or well-matched for today’s unmarried women. Studies indicate that in the United States the marriage market is currently in disequilibria as the supply of unmarried men is out of demographic balance with the demand for marriageable men among America’s currently unmarried women [(Lichter et al., 2020)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?OakRVa).

**Family Stability**

As more women become men’s equals within the household and the labour market, previous cultural and societal norms are shifting [(Wood, 2018)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?y0mDFs). Couples in which wives have more education than their husbands now outnumber those in which husbands have more. While such marriages were more unstable in the past, existing studies indicate that this is no longer true [(Van Bavel et al., 2018)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?uZp16M)

**Delinquency of young people**

The delinquency of young people, specifically young men, is another concern in society that has resulted from the lack of male leadership and mentorship. The prevalence of NEETs which are youths Not in Education, Employment or Training, is also closely related to delinquency. The United Nations defines NEET as young people 15 to 24 who are unemployed or withdrawn from the labour force [(Cieslik et al., 2021)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?5JLzXa). These are young people who lack direction; most time, the direction could be provided if they had mentors in their lives.

**Mis- Education of young men**

The current school system can also be attributed to the underdevelopment of young men emotionally as the current curriculum and style of learning may be disadvantageous to boys. Another problem that exists in schools is the need for more male teachers in the schooling system teaching traditional subjects; young men are mainly exposed to female leaders in their early developmental stages. It can be inferred that if young men mainly see women in leadership roles, they would be less likely to function as leaders in adulthood.

**Spectrum of Critical Contextualisation**

**Condemnation**

There is a push to downplay the specific roles of both genders in society, because of this, there is even a claim that more genders exist than the two that were created. This has led to mass confusion between the sexes as traits inherent to the two sexes are now considered as a gender stereotypes that need to be demonised. This demonising of these traits has now led to the male perspective being denigrated, leading to them feeling attacked and defensive in their relationships with women. It seems to be a self-fulfilling prophecy where we regularly tell our young men and boys that they are not good enough; they have now adopted these non-biblical traits as their identity.

Unfortunately, there are now male gurus who are now perverting the roles of men by now demonising the valid feelings and opinions of women. There is a growing number of men who have decided that their pushback against feminism is to view women as property and see their worth in the number of women that they can draw to them sexually. There is an underlying battle of the sexes where society prefers the strong woman archetype to the strong man archetype.

**Correction of Erroneous Emphases**

The rise of feminism has resulted in this tension between the sexes. However, the passive reaction of men to women’s empowerment has allowed an unbalance between men and women as women have surpassed men in many spheres. Culturally women seem to have developed a resentment towards men; they have taken the position where they genuinely believe that men and masculine energy are not needed; they have adopted an “I will do it myself” attitude. If men are able to hold each other accountable and self-reflective to the current state of their fellow men and address the state of men in society, only then will they be able to lessen the effect of the rise of feminism and male performance mediocrity has had on society’s progression.

**Conversion of Themes**

During creation, the Lord made mankind in his image with the goal that mankind would reign over every other created being;

“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”Genesis 1:26-27[(*New International Version (NIV) - Version Information - BibleGateway.Com*, n.d.)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?Rmvk4N)

This statement is indicative of how the Lord intended for both man and woman to live, he expected communal harmony between the sexes rather than a struggle in roles that caused underlying tensions between them.

**Commendation of Good Belief and/or Practices**

Men are to be leaders in their homes and also priests of their homes, but this leadership should not be manifested with authoritative aggression. 1 Timothy 3:2 says “now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,”[(*New International Version (NIV) - Version Information - BibleGateway.Com*, n.d.)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?8dHDrs), this verse points to the importance of men as leaders having traits that are consistent with that of a servant leader.

**Strategy for Contextualized Communication/Action for Social Change**

**Stakeholders**

Men are the main stakeholders in this charge to have men step up in society as the Lord would have first intended. These men would include those already living at the level of God`s intended will, such as pastors, teachers, businessmen, and people excelling in whatever sphere they are in. These men will need to mentor and guide other men or young men who are not operating from the level of leadership they should be; from a Christian point of view, discipleship needs to take place. Women also need to share the responsibility of helping men reach their full potential by the way that they grow their children, both in the way they nurture their boys and how they teach their girls to treat men. Teachers, youth group leaders, social workers, and any person who directly influences children and young people are also responsible for how they interact with young people.

**Venues of Communication**

The education system at all levels needs to be conscious of how they disseminate information; how young women learn is different from how young men learn. Parental classes are also necessary to empower parents in motivating their children; community groups and churches can teach these classes. Discipleship and mentorship are essential as a major factor needed in empowering men to operate at their full potential, is relationship building is pertinent.

**Resources**

websites, journals,books, conferences, webinars, family life educators,

community programs, research articles, books, podcasts, and churches – especially ones with dedicated family and men’s ministries.

**Timelines**

These strategies are best implemented in the long term as the fruit seen would be greater, especially when leaders disciple or mentor young men. Congruently, there can be short six-week programs developed that would allow for a changed mindset

**Obstacles to Anticipate**

Willingness to change, mindset, cultural upbringing, feminist agender, LGBTQ+ agenda

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