

# NOT ALL MILLENNIALS ARE CREATED EQUAL

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I grew up surrounded by strong women. I learned early on that women could work hard, raise children, love their husbands and pursue their passions even if it required quite a bit of juggling. I realize now how special that early childhood experience was. When I think about the young women my age who are marching and demanding that women be treated like men, I am reminded of the fact that many have only seen feminism as it is presented by the mainstream media.

In fact, as a young female born into this millennial generation, according to the media, my opinion on the current gender gap situation has apparently already been decided. The media can spin any scenario with whatever narrative best fits them, as long as the outcome is that those who represent me are still oppressed, overworked, and undercompensated. I am concerned that the questions being asked of me as a single woman only begin to scratch the surface of what I believe is actually going on in our nation.

Do I want equal treatment for men and women? *Yes.*

Do I think women should be treated like they are human beings with all the dignity that allows? *Of course.*

What I am still discovering and trying to figure out is – how do we make this happen?

When I consider my generation and what they meditate on, I see now that they believe and what they do is based on the fact that they cannot comprehend anything different. With the perspective I have, shaped by the strong men and women in my life, I can say that there is much at stake for my generation. The future is being shaped by the unimpeded, purposeless whims of a generation that have very few people after whom they can model themselves.

**What my generation needs is mothers and fathers.**

We need mothers and fathers ahead of us to take an interest in our development. We are not all lost causes chained to our iPhones; nor are we all so easily brainwashed by the mass opinions floating around. The young women of today need to see strong women leading with grace and dignity. Mentoring is a lifestyle that must be done by women because they are women.

I once read the book, *7 Women and the Secret of Their Greatness* by Eric Metaxas and I was moved by his premise. There are some women who were able to be the force for change because they were women, not in spite of it. When we think of Rosa Parks, Joan of Arc, Susan B. Anthony, and Hannah More, these women were so distinguished in their fight for what they believed to be right, because they were women. No man could have done what they did and brought about the same kind of change that was so vital to the shaping of the world in which they lived.

As I thought about what to write today, I realized that most everything had already been said on the matter. There have been centuries of men and women before me who have fought hard for the freedom we now have and I do not want to add too much to a narrative that ought to be simple.

It all boils down to the simple truth that the young people of the world and this nation are passionate and driven – but limited in their perspective. As a fellow young woman in the fight for equality, I am convinced that the key to our victory is not in one gender outshining the other, but in men and women leading *together* while providing the next generation with a better example of unity and strength.

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