

November R&R

A Woman's Power

David Longley

No, this is not an article on feminism and its perceived benefits, nor is it an article on the dangers of a feministic mindset and all the problems in our society because of feminism. Instead, I want to try and put into words what many might be thinking but are afraid to talk about among fellow Christians—that is, a woman's power or influence over a man.

Do you, ladies, realize how much influence you have? I'm not talking about just in the husband and wife relationship, but also the brother and sister relationship, along with all the friendships between males and females. On one extreme, there are women who realize this power of influence and use it in an ungodly way to manipulate. On the other extreme, there are women who have no idea what I am talking about.

We all chuckle about the young boys as they are trying to show off to the young girls at early ages. But this doesn't stop as we age; it only takes on a different form.

This influence can be both positive and negative. I want to point out four men in Scripture who were influenced negatively by women in their lives in hopes that the ladies reading this can realize their power and how easily they can influence men.

ADAM: We all know about Adam, his sin, and fall of man. In a manner of speaking, his sin was that he "heeded the voice of [his] wife" (Genesis 3:17). That's not to say that Adam just lost his senses before he ate of the fruit, but Adam listened to his wife.

SAMSON: This was the strongest man physically, but what about spiritually or mentally? We know the story of Samson, where Delilah coerced him into telling her about his strength. We are told in Judges 16:16-17, "She pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death, that he told her all his heart." In Samson's story we see first his desire to not abide by his Nazarite vow, and later we see how his decisions placed him in a situation where Delilah was able to cause him to lose his strength.

SOLOMON: When God granted Solomon a gift, he chose wisdom. This served him well as a king over Israel. However, he was made weaker because of his choices in women by having 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:3). Solomon's poor choice in the nationality and number of wives turned his heart away from the Lord.

DAVID: Then there is king David, the man after God's own heart. We can easily see how his desire for a woman, Bathsheba, caused him much grief and the death of his son.

With the exception of Adam, the other three made poor choices regarding a woman and suffered because of those choices. With these simple examples we can see how a man's God-given desire was turned into something sinful. Was it the any of these women's fault the man they were with sinned? Definitely not!!

In these four examples we see Delilah who knew her power to persuade a man and used this power to her advantage to get what she wanted. We also see Bathsheba who was wielding her power and did not even realize what she was doing so.

When we look at the woman of Proverbs 31, we see a godly exemplification of that influence. Her husband (and family) is made better because of her! Her husband is well known of in the gates of the city partially because of her!

Because of woman's innate influence on men, the first man, the strongest man, the wisest man, and the man after God's own heart were brought lower to sin. Ladies, like it or not, you have power over the guy whom you are with. We as men ask you to help us be better men, fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers by wielding your power like the woman of Proverbs 31.

Anyone would be hard pressed to find a man who was made better because a lady's criticism, even if it is valid (Proverbs 25:24). On the other hand, many men are made better because of a woman's encouragement, kindness, and cheer (Proverbs 15:13, 17:22), which is the real power of a woman. It is the meek and quiet spirit that changes a man for the better (1 Peter 3:4).