

Creation, Calling, and Conflict:

Feminism Through a Lutheran Lens

Joshua Nelson, M.Ed.

Goals for this presentation:

- Start a dialogue/ discourse- not to accuse!
- My goal isn't to win an argument or prove that I'm right
- My goal is to help Christians discern whether or not it is wise for us to actively pursue the use of what the World tells us is good.
- My goal is to suggest that we already have good solutions in front of us- solutions that make us different from the World in that we have the Word of God to guide us!

DISCERNMENT:

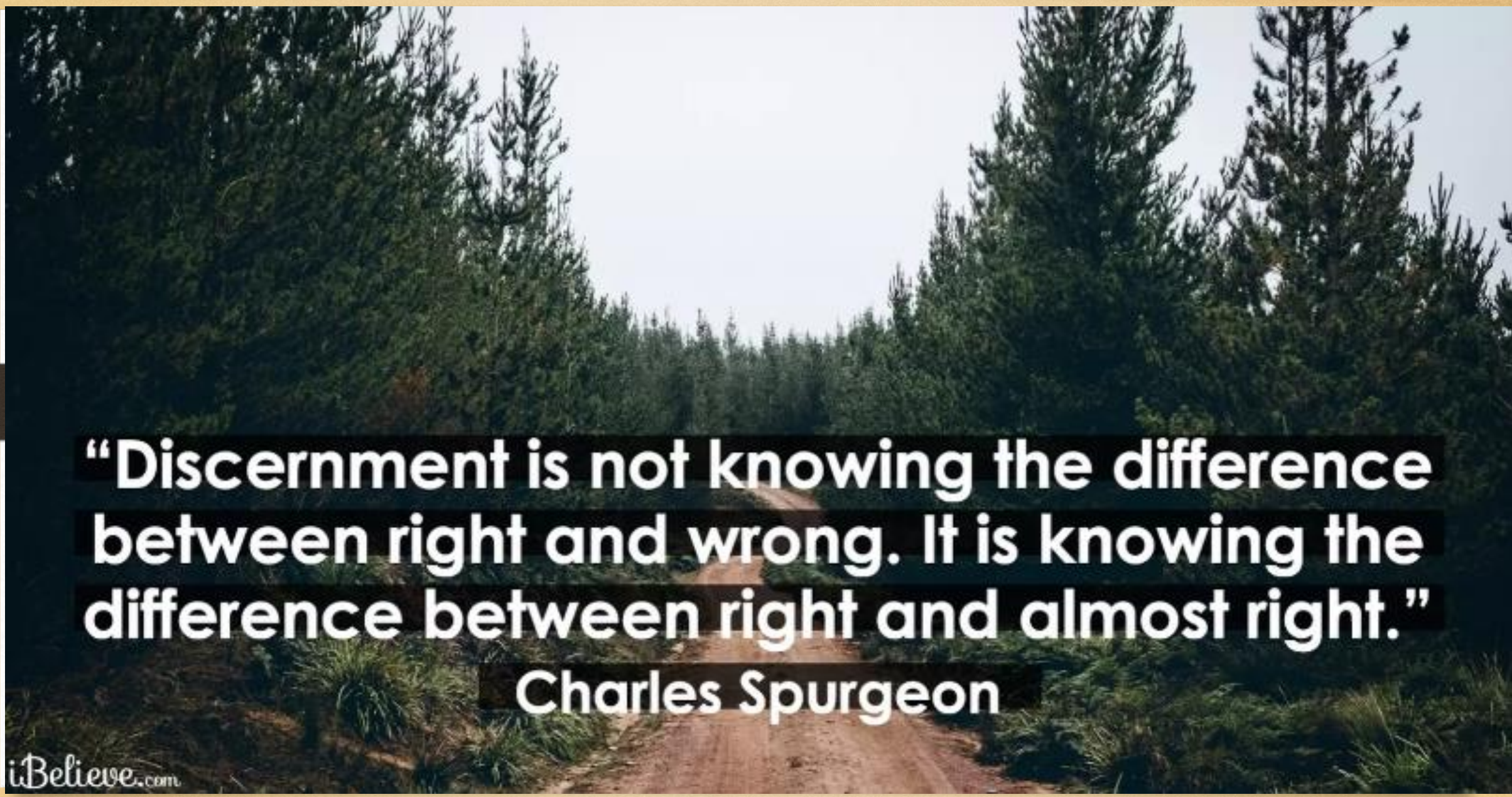
Let's define our words that we may be able to have discourse

-Dr. Gregory Schulz

Romans 12:2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

In the Bible, "discern" refers to the ability to:

perceive, distinguish, and judge something clearly and accurately, often with wisdom and spiritual insight. It involves more than just surface-level observation; it entails a deep understanding and the capacity to see subtle differences and make sound judgments.

A photograph of a dirt road winding through a dense forest of tall evergreen trees. The road is reddish-brown and leads into the distance, flanked by lush green foliage. The sky is visible through the canopy of trees in the background.

“Discernment is not knowing the difference between right and wrong. It is knowing the difference between right and almost right.”

Charles Spurgeon

Central Thesis:

- When discussing Creation and Transgenderism, the conversation should begin with Feminism.
-
- The reason for this is that relatively few confessional Christians embrace and affirm Transgenderism, yet a substantially higher number of Christians would embrace Feminism.
 - Both concepts involve a gradual loosening of creation-order distinctions between man and women, and I will demonstrate that Feminism objectively leads to Transgenderism.
 - The purpose in discussing this is to equip parents, teachers, and students on how we are being deceived that we may “take captive each thought and make it obedient to Christ.”

Satan makes evil look reasonable, or even good...

Should we use this concept?

- Receive
- Redeem
- Reject



How to be good at talking

1. Polite greeting
2. Name
3. Relevant personal link
4. Manage expectations



“Can” vs. “Should”...

- *Can* is indicative of “possessing the ability” to do something
- *Should* poses a question regarding the wisdom to employ the ability
- *May* respectfully requests permission to proceed...
- This is why “Can I use the bathroom” is a question I find endlessly entertaining

Nice vs. Kind

- NICE

- Driven by social expectations
- Automatic; performative
- Words
- Avoids conflict

- KIND

- Driven by genuine love
- Genuine, authentic
- Actions supporting words
- Reflects reality

“

The 11th Commandment: THOU SHALT BE NICE

”

And we don't really mean the first ten...







Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

-Eph. 4:15

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

-I Cor. 13:6

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

-2 Cor. 10:5

The Created Order:

All Humans

Purpose/Calling of Men

Purpose / Calling of Women

ALL HUMANS

- To glorify God and reflect his glory in the world.
- To have fellowship with God and others
- To love God completely and love thy neighbor as thyself.
- To rule and serve creation under God.

The Created Order:

All Humans

Purpose/Calling of Men

Purpose / Calling of Women

CALLING OF MEN: LOVING HEADSHIP

- 1 Cor. 11:3 (the head of the wife is the man)
- Eph. 5:22–33 (husbands are to love their wives as Christ loves the church)
- 1 Tim. 3:4–5 (elders must manage their own households well)
- **Leading** his household in faith and love
- **Protecting** his wife and family.
- **Providing** for them materially and spiritually.

The Created Order:

All Humans

Purpose/Calling of Men

Purpose / Calling of Women

Purpose and Calling of Women:

- In Genesis 2, the woman is created as a “**helper who is just right**” (ezer)
- She is man’s **cooperative complement**
- **Being a wife**, a companion who supports her husband.
- An equally defining role of women in the Bible is child-bearer or mother (Psalm 113:9; Prov. 1:8; 29:15; 31:28)
- The woman is to be **submitted to the leadership of her husband** (Eph. 5:22–25; 1 Peter 3:1, 5)



This is not a new concept...

Satan is entirely comfortable
bending reality over time...

- Proto-feminism, 1400s–1700s.
- First wave, 1848–1920.
- (Liberal Christian feminism, 1900s–1960s.)
- Second wave, 1960s–1980s.
- Third/fourth wave, 1990s–present.

Proto-Feminism (1400-1700s)

- Mary Wollstonecraft



First Wave Feminism (1840-1920)

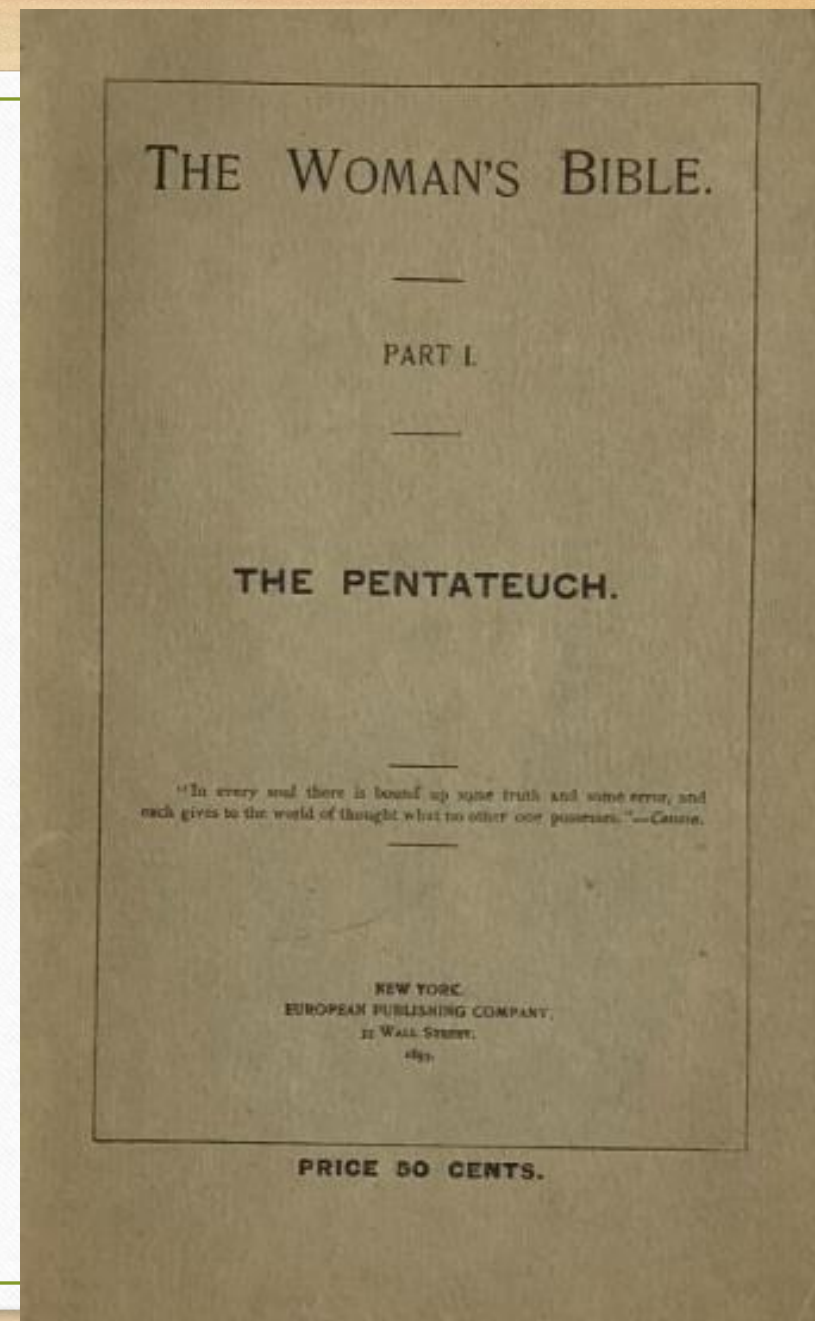
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- Lucretia Mott
- Susan B. Anthony
- Sojourner Truth
- Matilda Joselyn Gauge

First Wave

- 1848 Seneca Falls Convention (organized women's rights movement)
- 1850-1890 many speeches, conventions, momentum towards suffrage
- 1920 19th Amendment secures voting rights for women

First-Wave : Scripture is Detached

- Denies divine inspiration
- Says the Serpent in the garden brought knowledge and advancement\
- Reframes Eve's choice to eat the apple (and Adam's abdication of leadership) not as catastrophic sin but as a choice that brought new knowledge and was a step towards liberation.



Satan makes evil look reasonable, or even good...

Second Wave Feminism (1960-1980s)

- Rejection of biblical roles
- Marriage is “prostitution by another name” (Angela Carter)
- “The Second Sex” Simone de Beauvoir –
- “The Feminine Mystique” (1963, Betty Freidan) Argues that the “feminine mystique” restricted women to domestic life and argued that women would be happier pursuing education, careers, and self-development

The Second Sex-

- Challenges not only gender roles from a biblical perspective
- Challenges that gender roles are based on biological differences
- Sets the table for the notion of a “social construct,” meaning that reality isn’t really knowable but instead what the collective agrees upon at that time.
- This is moral relativism in practice.

The Second Wave- the wave builds...

- The sexual revolution disconnects sex from procreation
- Control over childbearing was seen as key to emancipation (note the false premise)
- **Roe v. Wade- 1973**
- Patricia Bidol- intersectional theory *(CRT)

DEVELOP

- 65 – 70
- 19-21 m
- This is t
- How is s



Christian?

Third-Wave Feminism (1990s-Present)

- Third-wave feminism emerged in the **1990s** and is usually defined by three big ideas: **intersectionality, bodily autonomy, and the deconstruction of gender**
- **Intersectionality.**
 - Third-wave feminism insists that women's experiences differ by race, class, sexuality, and other identities, not just sex.
- **Inclusivity.**
 - It is more open to lesbian, queer, and trans identities than earlier feminist waves.

Critical Theory

- **Judith Butler** *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* (1990)
- **Kimberlé Crenshaw**
- **Naomi Wolf** *The Beauty Myth: How Images of Beauty Are Used Against Women* (1991)

Matrix of Oppression

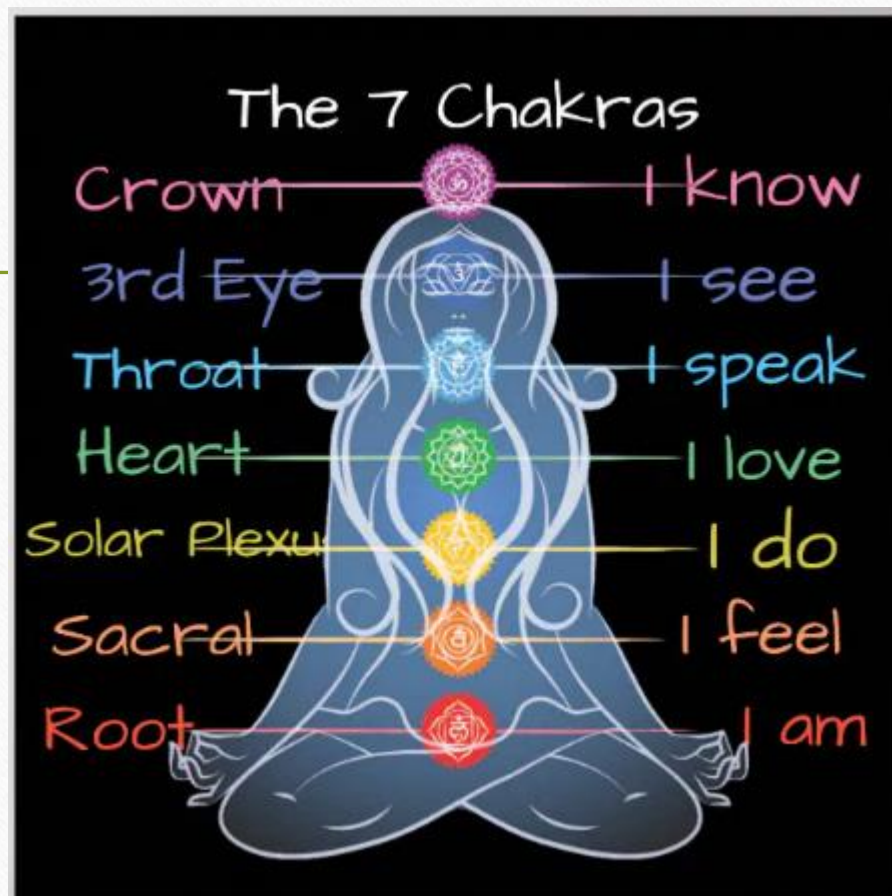
Social Identity Categories	Privileged Social Groups	Border Social Groups ↔	Targeted Social Groups	Ism
Race	White People	Biracial People (White/Latino, Black, Asian)	Asian, Black, Latino, Native People	Racism
Sex	Bio Men	Transsexual, Intersex People	Bio Women	Sexism
Gender	Gender Conforming Bio Men And Women	Gender Ambiguous Bio Men and Women	Transgender, Genderqueer, Intersex People	Transgender Oppression
Sexual Orientation	Heterosexual People	Bisexual People	Lesbians, Gay Men	Heterosexism
Class	Rich, Upper Class People	Middle Class People	Working Class, Poor People	Classism
Ability/Disability	Temporarily Abled-Bodied People	People with Temporary Disabilities	People with Disabilities	Ableism
Religion	Protestants	Roman Catholic (historically)	Jews, Muslims, Hindus	Religious Oppression
Age	Adults	Young Adults	Elders, Young People	Ageism/Adultism

Fourth-Wave Feminism (2000s-Present)

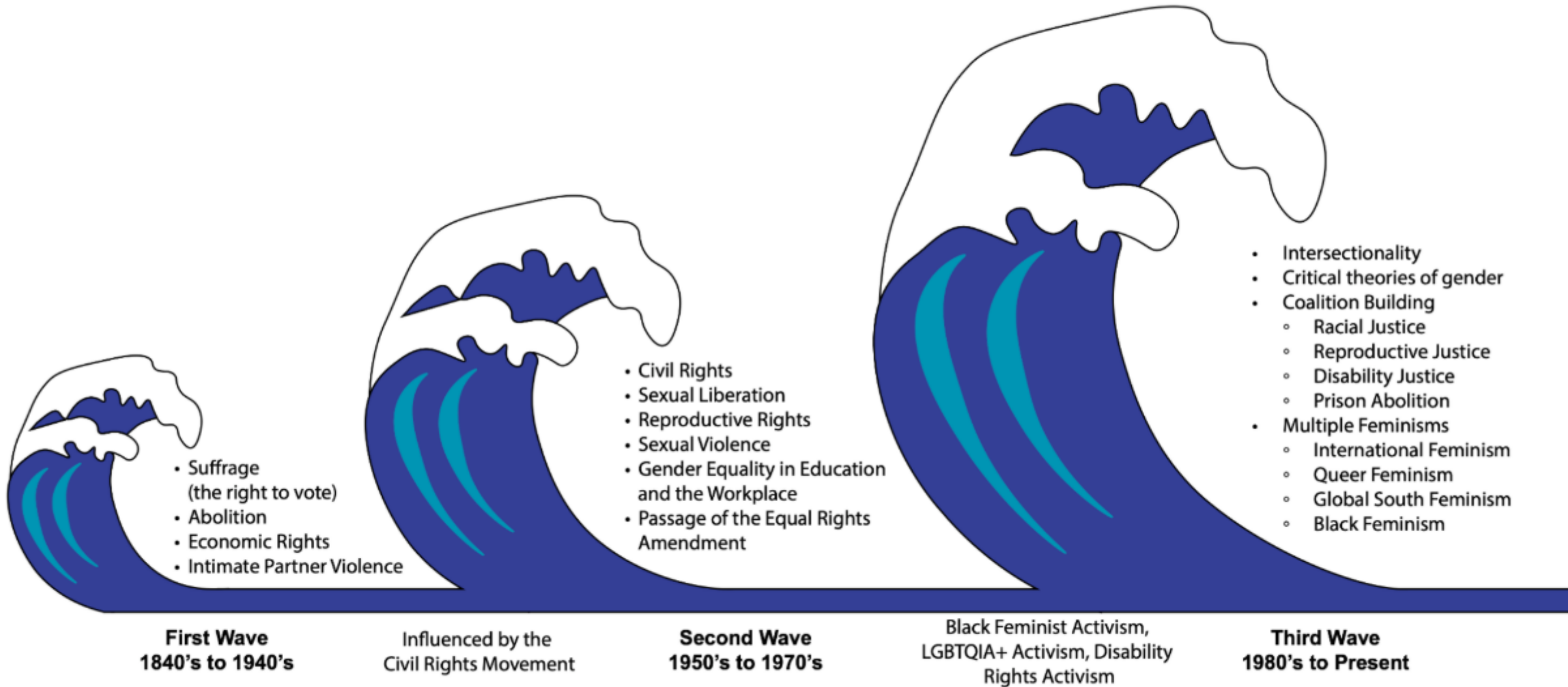
- Full-blown Postmodernism...
- Fourth-wave feminism is **digital, intersectional, and trans-inclusive**, with a central focus on **sexual violence, body shaming, and rape culture**. It uses **social media** as its main tool for activism and emphasizes **inclusivity** and **intersectionality**.

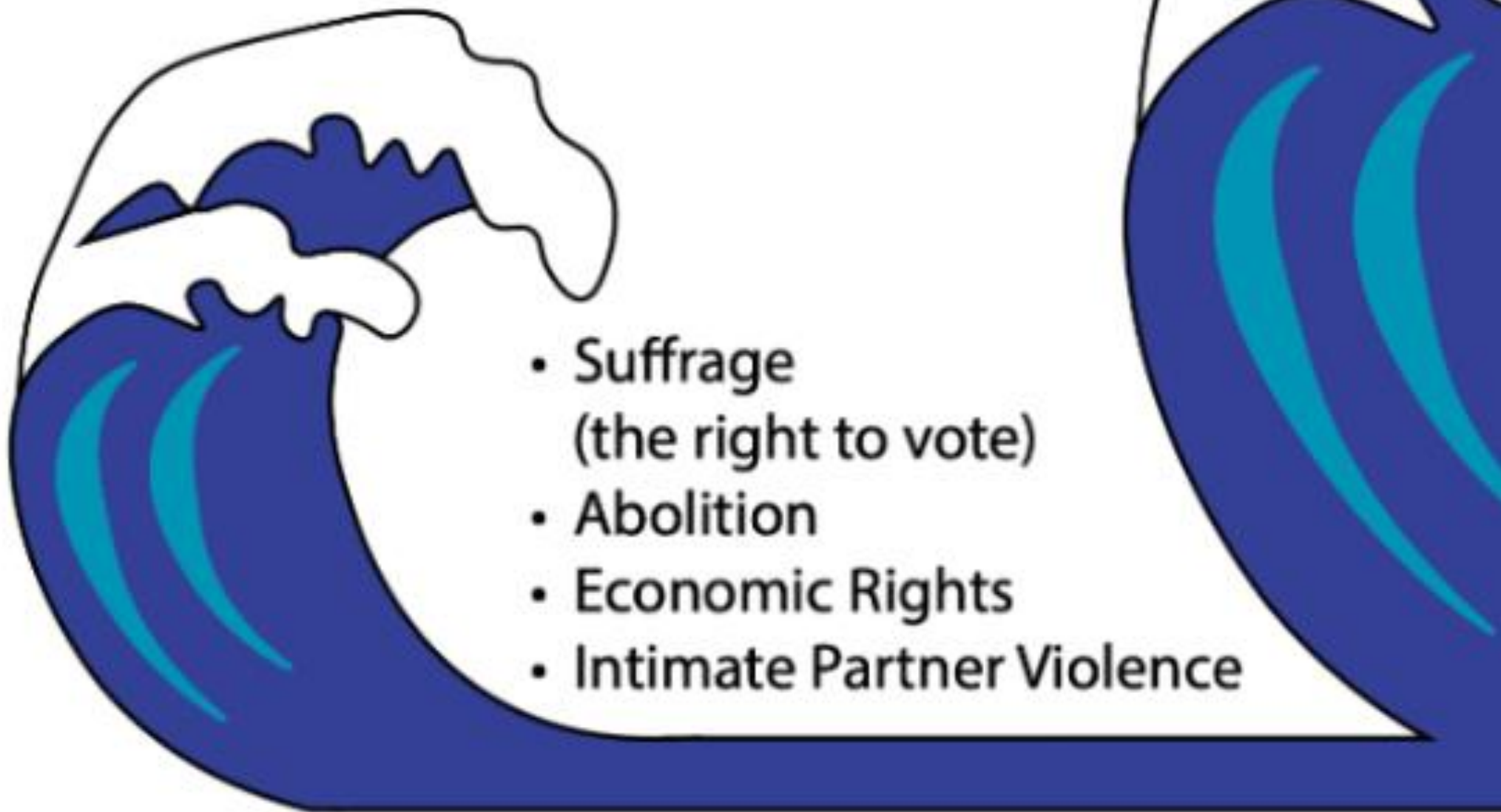
Direct conflicts with God's Word:

- Deeply integrates **trans rights** into feminism.
- Treats **gender as fluid** rather than creational.
- Makes **self-definition and digital activism** central, rather than submission to God's order.



The First Three Waves of Feminism





- Suffrage
(the right to vote)
- Abolition
- Economic Rights
- Intimate Partner Violence

First Wave
1840's to 1940's

Influenced
Civil Rights M



- Civil Rights
- Sexual Liberation
- Reproductive Rights
- Sexual Violence
- Gender Equality in Education and the Workplace
- Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment

Violence

Influenced by the
Civil Rights Movement

Second Wave
1950's to 1970's



- Intersectionality
- Critical theories of gender
- Coalition Building
 - Racial Justice
 - Reproductive Justice
 - Disability Justice
 - Prison Abolition
- Multiple Feminisms
 - International Feminism
 - Queer Feminism
 - Global South Feminism
 - Black Feminism

Black Feminist Activism,
LGBTQIA+ Activism, Disability
Rights Activism

Third Wave
1980's to Present

Fourth-Wave is where the wave begins to collapse...



- ... some who wish to ride this new fourth wave have trouble with the word “feminism,” not just because of its older connotations of radicalism, but **because the word feels like it is underpinned by assumptions of a gender binary and an exclusionary subtext: “for women only.”**
- <https://www.pacificu.edu/magazine/four-waves-feminism>

Feminism vs God's Word:

Feminisim

- Men and women are interchangeable
- “liberation” means rejecting traditional roles
- “my body, my choice”

God's Word

- (Genesis) Men and women are equal in value, but distinct in role
- says freedom is found *not* in self-definition or self-determination, but in Christ we have been set free
- I Cor. 6:19 literally says “You are not your own, you were bought at a price”

Feminism vs. God's Word

Feminism

- Feminism says “gender is a social construct”
- Feminism says that authority is oppressive and sinful

God's Word

- “and he created them, male and female he created them”
- The Bible says in Ephesians 5 that authority is assigned to ensure protection and flourishing



RACHEL WILSON

OCCULT FEMINISM:
THE SECRET HISTORY
OF WOMEN'S
LIBERATION

Central Thesis:

- When discussing Creation and Transgenderism, the conversation should begin with Feminism.
-
- The reason for this is that relatively few confessional Christians embrace and affirm Transgenderism, yet a substantially higher number of Christians would embrace Feminism.
 - Both concepts involve a gradual loosening of creation-order distinctions between man and women, and I will demonstrate that Feminism objectively leads to Transgenderism.
 - The purpose in discussing this is to equip parents, teachers, and students on how we are being deceived that we may “take captive each thought and make it obedient to Christ.”



Should we use this concept?

- Receive
- Redeem
- Reject