



Simply Put, We Are All Equal

I have grown significantly in my life as of recent. After first meeting Nicole (and later falling in love with her), I was introduced to a topic that many men either oppose (because of simple ignorance of the true subject) or have no idea about. The subject, which I now find to be quite dear to my heart, and for which I often feel (for lack of a better term) sympathy pains, is feminism. Some may conjure up the image of a large, hairy, angry, bra-burning woman of the 60's, but I urge you to press beyond those misconceptions and strive to see the reality around us. There is such a large amount of both active and passive violence and repression toward women in our day to day lives that we often miss it. It is something that many women deal with regularly at work, in school, at home, and even in public places.

For me, the part that catches my deepest attention is violence against women, both sexual and non-sexual. If you think quietly to yourself (and this will have more impact on women), how many women do you know who have been raped in some form or another? The numbers would astound anyone. The issue at this point lies with who is willing to stand up and oppose such behaviors. This leads to the reason I am writing this. Men need to stand up alongside women and strive to better our status quo. We, as men, should be talking to each other and educating those among us who don't know. There is an article online (<http://www.nostatusquo.com/Schacht/whyshould.html>) that shares the story of another male-feminist, and some very amazing viewpoints on matters that we don't usually come across. I urge you all to talk about these issues with friends, family members, and anyone else around you. Another site that you should check out and join (men!!!) is <http://www.standupguys.org/> I want to stress that while the focus of this is feminism, it should be viewed with the same mindset that one would view civil rights with. Why and how can it even be possible to treat women any differently? I will leave you with this:

We are all human,
flesh, blood and mind.
who are WE to stand superior ?
to look down upon, or abuse another?
It's simple and golden.
The rule for which I speak.
"Do unto others, as if you were the weak."
Stand up for each other,
Against wrongs and for rights.
For if we stand together,
There can be no fight.
No race, gender, color or creed
Makes one less or better, you see,
But different, separate, unique.

