

Lately, when I drive through the streets of Eureka I notice a lot of homeless people hanging out at various corners and living in the barrancas, just off Highway 101. The curious thing is that a majority of the homeless are men. White males, wandering aimlessly, listlessly ~~up and down~~ ~~101 corridor~~. Some of them are criminals, in and out of jail and prison, others are not; they are simply homeless. Due to : what ~~is it~~? Mental illness? Yes: many are mentally ill; others are drug addicted. And I am guessing a good portion are both.

~~But~~ My point is that they are men: most of them white men, who are supposed to be the top dogs, instigators of patriarchy and the oppressors of women. Well, the men on the streets don't look like they are exactly wielding power that oppresses. They look lost, isolated and without purpose. What is going on that we have so many males on the streets wandering aimlessly?

Jordan Peterson, the contemporary rock star of the intellectual world, writes ~~this~~ in his book, 12 Rules for Life:

"Boys are suffering, in the modern world. They are more disobedient—negatively or more independent positively—than girls, and they suffer for this, throughout their pre-university educational career. They are less agreeable...

Boys like competition, and they don't like to obey, particularly when they are adolescents. During that time, they are driven to escape their families, and establish their own independent existence. There is little difference between doing that and challenging authority/Schools, which were set up in the 1800's precisely to inculcate obedience, do not take kindly to provocative and daring behavior, no matter how tough minded and competent it might show a boy (or a girl) to be..."

What is it that ails young men today? particularly driving some of them to turn on to drugs, or video games, shun women, or mistreat them, and drop out of life? *3 things,*

1. Our early educational system is slanted toward girls.
2. Many boys today lack role models. I had a Dad who was even-tempered, wise, well regarded and got up every morning to go to work as a teacher. Increasing numbers of boys today have no such role model. *by his country,*
3. Boys grow up to be men, or should. But they inherit the modern position of being vilified as the architects of patriarchy and find themselves competing with women for <sup>an</sup> increasing percentage of jobs today. When a vast portion of persons are continuously vilified, it soaks in over time.

My observations do not mean that men are innocent victims; we males have abused power and taken advantage of women at many turns. But it's a law of human nature that if you are repeatedly blamed, you begin to assume that worst about yourself.

So, do men now need to be liberated, like women have? It's a long and complex issue, but I think if we only talk in terms who gains power: men or women? it will be a zero sum game with both genders losing. Only when Men, and Women respect and serve one another, not forcibly, but willingly, can we begin to help <sup>fight</sup> ~~our~~ <sup>100 yrs.</sup> ~~lost~~ males. *boys of our community & nation.*

This has been Dan Price for Community Comment