

56-Women & Men Relationships

[Bahá'u'lláh] declared that as all are created in the image and likeness of the one God, there is no distinction as to sex in the estimation of God. He who is purest in heart, whose knowledge exceeds and who excels in kindness to the servants of God, is nearest and dearest to the Lord, our Creator, irrespective of sex.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, 118.10

...the world of humanity possesses two wings: man and woman. If one wing remains incapable and defective, it will restrict the power of the other, and full flight will be impossible. Therefore, the completeness and perfection of the human world are dependent upon the equal development of these two wings.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, 103.12

The world in the past has been ruled by force, and man has dominated over woman by reason of his more forceful and aggressive qualities both of body and mind. But the balance is already shifting; force is losing its dominance, and mental alertness, intuition, and the spiritual qualities of love and service, in which woman is strong, are gaining ascendancy. Hence the new age will be an age less masculine and more permeated with the feminine ideals, or, to speak more exactly, will be an age in which the masculine and feminine elements of civilization will be more evenly balanced.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Compilation of Compilations*, Vol II
(Women), p. 369

In former ages, men enjoyed ascendancy over women because bodily might reigned supreme and the spirit was subject to its dominion. In this radiant age, however, since the power of the spirit hath transcended that of the body and assumed its ascendancy, authority and dominion over the human world, this physical distinction hath ceased to be of consequence; and, as the sway and influence of the spirit have become apparent, women have come to be the full equals of men. Today, therefore, there is no respect or circumstance in which a person's sex provideth grounds for the exercise of either discrimination or favour.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Additional Tablets, Extracts and Talks*, 22.1

In this Dispensation one should not think in terms of “men” and “women”: all are under the shadow of the Word of God and, as they strive more diligently, so shall their reward be greater — be they men or women or the frailest of people....

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Additional Tablets, Extracts and Talk*, 21.1

Equality between men and women is conducive to the abolition of warfare for the reason that women will never be willing to sanction it. Mothers will not give their sons as sacrifices upon the battlefield after twenty years of anxiety and loving devotion in rearing them from infancy, no matter what cause they are called upon to defend. There is no doubt that when women obtain equality of rights, war will entirely cease among mankind.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, 62.7

Woman must especially devote her energies and abilities toward the industrial and agricultural sciences, seeking to assist mankind in that which is most needful. By this means she will demonstrate capability and ensure recognition of equality in the social and economic equation.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, 95.11

Work ye for the guidance of the women in that land, teach the young girls and the children, so that the mothers may educate their little ones from their earliest days, thoroughly train them, rear them to have a goodly character and good morals, guide them to all the virtues of humankind, prevent the development of any behaviour that would be worthy of blame...

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá*, pp. 124-125

In some respects woman is superior to man. She is more tender-hearted, more receptive, her intuition is more intense.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Paris Talks*, p. 161

It may be that letters addressed to the women believers do indeed contain certain passages written by way of encouragement, but the purpose of such passages is to show that, in this wondrous Dispensation, certain women have outshone certain men — not that all women have excelled all men!

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Additional Tablets, Extracts and Talks*, 21.1