



The Myth of Male Power: Why Men Are the Disposable Sex Part 2

WARREN FARRELL



In dialogue form, the author reviews the highlights of the book version of The Myth of Male Power. Farrell takes us into our legal system, world history and religions, the psychology and sociology of success, suicide and love, and the politics and psychology of domestic violence, date rape and sex. He shows that men's corporate and political power has blinded them to the definition of real power: "control over one's life." Men are shown to be the "disposable sex." Their façade of strength camouflages an inability to detect feelings of weakness and powerlessness. Farrell envisions gender studies as helping both sexes make an evolutionary shift from a focus on survival to a proper balance between survival and fulfillment. He proposes "gender transition movement" from the rigid to more flexible roles for men and women.

Key Words: men, boyhood, gender, social roles

Introductory Note: The following is a transcript of conversations between journalist Tom Howard and Warren Farrell that were taped in 1993 when Dr. Farrell's book *The Myth of Male Power* was published. The book remains in print (with an updated introduction for the 2001 edition) and CDs of the script are available privately at <http://www.warrenfarrell.com/cds/html>. Dr. Farrell wrote the basic script of the exchange himself, emphasizing the book's highlights. The dialogue format makes his book even more accessible, as if you are having a conversation with Dr. Farrell at a party and he is in direct dialogue with you about every question you might have about the cross-cultural, psychological, historical and legal issues related to men and women. In these fast-paced exchanges on both the written transcript and CD versions of *The Myth of Male Power*, the book comes alive. While the CD best captures Warren's personable and engaging style, the written script presented here encourages the more careful analysis appropriate for an academic publication. The written script also allows for an easier comparison to the full text of the book version of *The Myth of Male Power* with its extensive endnotes. The reader is encouraged to consult the book's precise notes and government sources on which this dialogue is based.

With Dr. Farrell's permission, this is the first time the text of the conversations has been made available in this form. What has happened during the nearly twenty years that have passed since the book appeared is testimony to the author's prescience. With the loss of blue-collar jobs and a dangerously weakened economy, the situation for men as Dr. Farrell described it in 2001 has worsened, especially for young males. By distinguishing between external power (for example, control over others) and internal power (control over one's own life), Dr. Farrell simultaneously navigates three experiences of male power and powerlessness: the external power (and often oppressiveness) of the few; the *external powerlessness* of *most males*; and the different types of *internal* powerlessness experienced by virtually all males. We often forget that when pronouncements are made about "men" it is not made clear that reference is being made to only the external power of a very small number of corporate and political moguls, not the internal and external powerlessness of the blokes, guys and lads of this world. Finally, Dr. Farrell does not omit reference to boys in his discussion. This is important, since as he makes clear, the stage for the internal powerlessness of virtually all males is set early in a boy's life. This is true not just in the United States, but in all cultures and classes.

New Male Studies is proud to offer this contribution in two parts. In several places, statistics have been updated. The most current data present an even bleaker picture for boys and men and *The Myth of Male Power* helps us understand both why that was so predictable and exactly what needs to be changed to create a healthier masculinity for the future. In brief, Dr. Farrell explains why raising our sons successfully in the past differs from raising our sons successfully for the future.

Warren Farrell is also the author of *The Liberated Man* (1975; updated edition, 1993); *Why Men Are the Way They Are* (1986); *Women Can't Hear What Men Don't Say* (1999); *Father and Child Reunion* (2001); *Why Men Earn More* (2005), and co-author of *Does Feminism Discriminate Against Men? A Debate* (2008). He is currently co-authoring, with John Gray, *Boys to Men*. He lives physically near San Francisco, and virtually at www.warrenfarrell.com.



Warren: I have to relax by just watching a half hour of TV to unwind. I used to watch the news but I couldn't even watch the story on the war and drugs without being aware of how every drug enforcement administration agent that's ever been killed was a man. And therefore, being aware of the fact that the world of drugs is virtually another all male war—at least in the combat zone it is all male. So now I watch sitcoms.

Tom: Why don't we do more about workplace safety?

Warren: In part because safety costs money. Letting men die is a money-saving device. We're in a country where we still care more about saving whales than saving males.

Tom: And when we care more about saving males than saving whales?

Warren: We'll do more to enforce safety for males and less to subsidize "smashface" for males.

Tom: I guess the ultimate example of hiring men on the cheap would be the mandatory draft. No?

Warren: Definitely and this is universal. As Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes put it, "Every society rests on the death of men." When we live in the United States, we can attribute the fact that we are not under Nazi rule in part that almost one out of three American men is a veteran. We sometimes forget the number of men who sacrificed their lives. In one World War I battle alone, the Battle of the Somme, more than one million men were killed or maimed. And that was just on the Allies side. Before men can vote, men have the obligation to protect that right. Women receive the right to vote without the obligation to protect that right.

Tom: Do you think we still send the message to men that they are the sex that should prepare for war?

Warren: Definitely. We still put pressure on men not to make individual choices conscious of immorality but rather we put pressure on them just to sacrifice their lives. Throughout the world the basic message to men still is a willingness to serve your country as President or Prime Minister is not good enough. If you're a man you must be willing to prove yourself, that you are willing to die even if you don't believe in the cause before you may serve your country in a way that you do believe in. I think there is no form of sexism that is more damaging, more unconstitutional, more universal, or more ignored than that form of sexism.

Tom: Well, I understand now that 11.7% of our military consists of women. Doesn't this mean we are moving towards less discrimination?

Warren: Very minimally. We are still psychologically preparing boys to become insensitive by giving them the rewards of money and love when they participate in violent sports when they're young, sports like football, boxing, ice hockey, auto crashing, auto racing, and so on. We still take longer to pick up boy infants than our girl infants, meaning that we're signaling to our sons that complaining won't solve their problems. We still circumcise boys' penises without anesthesia while we never consider doing that to an infant girl's clitoris. And on and on. We're still preparing boys psychologically to not feel.

Tom: So, you're saying that's what creates the psychological preparation that still leaves us with 90% of the Armed Services being men. Will the Armed Services be a higher percentage of women as women have more equal opportunity in the Armed Services?

Warren: Actually the Armed Services have two areas of major discrimination still against women and numerous areas of discrimination against men in relation to women.

Tom: The two areas of discrimination being?

Warren: First, the most important one, is women entering a system of rules that are basically an outgrowth of the male psyche. Women are having to integrate with a group of men who are most inclined to associate women with their responsibility and incompetence. Statements like, "What kind of girl are you, or sissy," I think, indicate that. And second, not being allowed in the most dangerous area of combat does discrimination against a certain percentage of women who want to enter those areas.

Tom: And the discrimination against men?

Warren: By not allowing women into the most dangerous combat positions or the most dangerous positions like cannon artillery specialists and infantry positions and armor tank specialists. All those positions need to be filled by men when in fact these are the least desired positions in the armed services. You know the services are called the college for the poor, preparing people who are poor in life. But there are few jobs in civilian life that are called cannon artillery specialists and there are few help-wanted ads saying infantry experience and post-traumatic stress required. So, a hundred percent of these positions that are the least useful to civilian life are filled by men, while approximately a quarter of the main jobs that train men for civilian life have been lost by men to women, jobs like computer specialist, flight controller, jet mechanic, nurse, teacher. This all leads to a higher percentage of women who reenter civilian life prepared for a constructive life, while at the same time it leads to a higher percentage of men prepared for useless and destructive lives.

Tom: Okay. So, I guess what you're saying is that women get a better chance for certain kinds of training that are more constructive. But, during the war in the Persian Gulf, didn't Congresswoman Schroder say that women share equal combat risks without equal combat pay?

Warren: Yes, not only did she say that, but the popular media also bought that line and the assumptions that women were being denied combat positions in order to deny them equal opportunities as officers.

Tom: Were you implying that there are three myths here? The myth of equal risks, as well as the myths of unequal opportunity as officers and unequal pay?

Warren: Exactly. Let me take the equal risks first. In Panama and the Persian Gulf operations combined, 27 men died for each woman. So, women are still not sharing equal risks to men, and even when you calculate that there are nine men in the Armed Services for each woman, any given man's risk when he enters the Armed Services is still three times as great as a woman's of being killed. This difference is the result of women being placed in zones of indirect combat when they choose to enter combat rather than being placed in the zones of direct combat.

Tom: And the myth of unequal opportunity as officers?

Warren: Women constitute 11.7% of the total military, but 12% of the officers, despite the fact that the first females graduated from West Point only in 1980.

Tom: So, they have not been in the military nearly as long as some men. Amazing. What a contrast to the image the media gives us. And the myth of unequal pay?

Warren: Although the women were only in the less dangerous combat zones, both sexes in the Persian Gulf received \$110 per month extra combat pay. Women received equal pay for unequal risks.

Tom: You're saying that in times of war men entering the Armed Services are required to enter any combat position as needed, while women are given the option to enter or not enter combat, and that this is part of an underlying discrimination of giving women options and men obligations.

Warren: Yes, what we're doing is we're creating two different armies: his army versus her army. His army is an army of obligations. Her army is an army of rights. And this is the basis I think for an enormous misunderstanding in the Armed Services. For example, combat training requires men to devalue their lives. However, training for technical jobs that could be used in civilian life is compatible with valuing one's life. So, when a man enters the Armed Services hazing and harassment are preparation in his role of being devalued. That's why men historically hazed and harassed each other. They're amputating each other's individuality because the war machine works best with standardized parts.

Tom: Are you suggesting here that women object to harassment and hazing because they're trained to see the Armed Services as an opportunity compatible with value in their life, while harassment and hazing are only compatible with devalue life.

Warren: Exactly.

Tom: Is there a solution to all this?

Warren: Well, the abbreviated solution, the only one I have time for here is making a decision of what type of army we want and then giving both sexes equal opportunity and equal obligation.

Tom: You mentioned that male-only draft registration and combat requirements are the two most unconstitutional laws in America. But since we're not in a war situation what are the practical effects of women not having to register for the draft?

Warren: It's creating a moral dilemma for boys that we don't create for girls. Every 18-year-old boy has to face a moral dilemma from which every woman is free. He has to face the fact that if he doesn't sign up for the draft, he can never work at a government job or even get a government loan for a private school, to say nothing of facing five years in prison and a quarter of a million dollar fine. He may be able to break the law by not signing up and getting away with it, but that decision is the end of his innocence. All of this is part of the psychological preparation in preparing a boy for war. And then, once the country goes to war we talk about the importance of not bombing innocent women and children. So what we do is allow women to escape responsibility and then call them innocent for that escape. In a country in which both sexes vote, when that country goes to war all of its adult citizens are equally innocent and equally guilty.

Tom: What about people who say war is caused by men?

Warren: War is caused by our primal fear of not surviving. That's a two sex fear. Even in the war in the Persian Gulf when the United States attacked Iraq, more than three-fourths of women approved as did 87% of men.

Tom: Concerning the innocence you've been talking about, I was fascinated by your connection of female innocence to your belief that men love women more than they love themselves but that they respect themselves more than they respect women. Would you explain that to me?

Warren: Yes. We love what's innocent. That's why we're willing to kiss even puppy dogs, but we respect what protects us. However, the shadow side of protecting is constant exposure to the ugly that destroys the innocent, and as we expose ourselves to the ugly we tend to lose our own innocence. So, when a man falls in love with an innocent woman he falls in love because her innocence allows him to have a reunion with a part of himself that got lost in the process of protecting her innocence. He wants to see his innocent self because that allows him to see his soul directly, the way we see mountains in a land that has no smog.

Tom: What would men cutting themselves off from their feelings and adopting mottos like "When the going gets tough the tough get going" be compatible with men being what you call the suicide sex?

Warren: I think there's no greater proof of the underlying need of both sexes for love than the proof that comes with understanding even when that sex, men, cut themselves off from feelings and are deprived of love how men when deprived of love commit suicide. For example, when a husband whose wife dies is about ten times more likely to commit suicide than a wife whose husband dies, you can get some understanding of the feeling we don't see beneath men.

Tom: Are you saying that what's behind men committing suicide four times as often as women is they're not feeling loved?

Warren: Basically, yes. People who feel genuinely loved and needed rarely commit suicide, either women or men. But for a lot of different reasons women are more likely to feel loved and needed. For example, when a woman and man divorce and so therefore they're both deprived enormously of feeling loved and needed, she usually has custody of the children about 90% of the time. She's more likely to feel loved and needed. She may also feel more stressed out, but feeling stressed out while feeling loved and needed does not lead to suicide.

Tom: Divorce is more likely to disconnect a man from love?

Warren: Yes, men when they're divorced often feel needed as a wallet, but a very high percentage of men feel that their children have turned against them after divorce and that they're obligated to pay money to a woman who hates him and to children who don't seem to love him. Now if he has this situation and he also makes an attempt to get shared custody of the children and he's falsely accused of sexual abuse, we often have a suicide waiting to happen. We have a man, which means the sex most poorly socialized to create a support system not only having his support system wiped out but having much of the community turned against him in this case of accusations of sexual abuse. He is made to feel not only worthless but evil.

Tom: Warren, you often say that men feel they will not be loved unless they have money.

Warren: Yes, a warm and tender and sensitive man who's reading I'm Okay, You're Okay on the unemployment line is really rarely invited home to a dinner.

Tom: I'm afraid that's probably true. But what is it about unemployed men, particularly men who have just been fired or involuntarily lost their job that they would feel the fear of being unloved and unneeded and therefore more likely to commit suicide?

Warren: Yes, in the middle of the Great Depression, for example, men were 650% more likely to commit suicide than women. Even today unemployed men commit suicide at twice the rate of em-

ployed men.

Tom: Well, what about unemployed women?

Warren: Among women there's no difference in the rate of suicide based on whether or not the woman is employed.

Tom: Women do not feel more or less loved based on whether or not they're employed.

Warren: Not significantly enough so to commit suicide over it, and they also have better support systems to work from.

Tom: You know I've heard that the adolescent suicide rate has been going up.

Warren: It has and it's interesting what we haven't heard about is the fact that the suicide rate of boys has recently increased three times as quickly as the girls and among young women their rates have decreased, while young men's rates have increased.

Tom: So, your implication here is that when boy's rates increase more we just hear about the rise in adolescent rates, not boys' rates and then young women's rates decrease while young men's increase we don't hear anything?

Warren: Exactly.

Tom: I think the most astonishing figure you mentioned in the suicide chapter of *The Myth of Male Power* is that boys' suicide increases 25,000% as their sex roles become apparent. Now that's incredible. Why do you think that's occurring?

Warren: I think partially because we're giving girls more options. When I say more options I mean that basically the girl has more ways of getting approval during the years when we all know if you don't get approval it feels like death. Meantime, we still tell boys to play the same old role: perform, pursue, and pay (what I call the three P's).

Tom: So teenage boys' greater socialization to perform is what leads to their greater suicides.

Warren: Almost. It's the demand to perform without the resources to perform and the constant experience of rejection to an already insecure identity that is being further being battered by the commerce of male adolescents, meaning the commerce of putdowns that all of us who have had adolescents know what I mean.

Tom: So it ends up being only the football players that pursue something close to unconditional approval.

Warren: Yes, and it's sort of ironic that some of the biggest "winners" the football players are receiving love by self-abuse. Some boys receiving love by self-abuse create a bit of anxiety, but losing love creates even more anxiety. So these boys are caught between the anxiety of abuse by other boys and the anxiety of rejection by girls.

Tom: Okay, but wait. Is female depression the equivalent of male suicide?

Warren: No, that's a big myth. Reporting depression empowers women. Suicide does not empower men. It empowers women, reporting depression, because it allows women to get help. Suicide leaves everyone helpless. Reporting depression is really part of the solution.

Tom: You know when we think of depression, Warren, we tend to think middle class women, not poor women. Why is that?

Warren: It's because depression is a diagnosis that tends to increase among people with a luxury of being able to worry about something other than survival. It's often the middle-class woman who is married to a man who's successful enough to pay for a psychiatrist to diagnose her as depressed. Few women who are poor have this luxury.

Tom: Now you said that the bottom line of power is the length of life. Tell me about that.

Warren: The length of life is in essence the best summary of the accumulation of our life's stresses subtracted from our life's rewards.

Tom: Isn't part of the difference in life expectancy biological?

Warren: If much of the difference were biological, American men would not have died one year sooner than women in 1920, but seven years sooner today. That's an extraordinary difference, but to me what's even more extraordinary is the fact that we don't even know that or I guess more accurately that we don't care to know it since that this has basically been true for a couple of decades now and the data have been available to us all along. We have cared just not to look at it.

Tom: I wonder what the reaction would be if it was the opposite. But what accounts for this difference do you think?

Warren: When women and men have an approximately equal life expectancy it's usually when they're equally subject to contagious parasitic diseases and to poor sanitation and it's in places where female deaths in childbirth are similar to the male deaths in war. However, in more industrial societies all the problems that affect male and female life expectancy about equally or the problems that effect women more like childbirth have been enormously reduced. So almost all our problems today with diseases come from immune system breakdowns which comes predominately from stress and that triggers whatever biological weaknesses are part of that person's heritage, like heart attacks, cancer, diabetes, and so on. It is since stress has become the key factor that men have died so much sooner than women.

Tom: But we hear more about the stress women endure in their multiple roles. We hear about the Superwoman Syndrome and the female juggling act.

Warren: Yes, I think these are legitimate and these are accurate stressors that a lot of women do experience. But the multiple options of women who are married to successful men allow the women to cater their roles to their personalities. Whereas the male's mandate is to work fulltime, that mandate does not allow him flexibility, the straight jacket that he can't work in a way that suits his personality or be with children in a way that suits his personality.

Tom: So industrialization has broadened women's options and deepened men's mold?

Warren: Exactly, as I mentioned in the beginning of the interview, man's role in the industrialized society has taken him away from home and away from love and also man's role has done a lot more to produce the homes and gardens for women than it's done to produce safer coalmines and construction sites for men. So, we're still in an era where men's disconnection from love away in the workplace pays women to love. Their money pays women to love, whereas no one pays men to love.

Tom: You know we often hear that medical research neglects women, that less money and attention are given to female health than male health. What do you think about that?

Warren: It's not true. No governmental agency focusing on health spends as much on men's health as on women's health.

Tom: Well, I've read that only ten percent of the National Institute of Health, the NIH's budget is spent on women's health.

Warren: But can I bet you that you haven't read that only 5% of the NIH budget is spent on men's health?

Tom: You're right. I had not. So that's what we're not told?

Warren: Correct. What you're also not told is that the other 85% is on non-gender specific health issues—basic science.

Tom: What about more studies being done on men than on women?

Warren: One search of the 3,000 medical journals that are listed in Medline showed 23 articles are written on women's health for each one written on men's health.

Tom: What about what we've heard about heart disease studies being done on men but not on women, such as the study related to the effect of aspirin and heart attacks done only on male physicians?

Warren: It's interesting that everyone in the nation heard about that study, but no one heard about the simultaneous study on the effect of aspirin on heart attacks done only on female nurses, in which four times as many women were included as in the male study.

Tom: Aren't there many other studies done only on groups of men?

Warren: Yes. A high degree of those studies have been experimentation studies, for example, studies on the effects of a highly dangerous drug that were done on only male prisoners, or on military men—the study on LSD and things like that. The reason we do more research on men in prison and men in the military, as well as men in general, than we do on women is the same reason why we do more research on rats other than humans.

Tom: Wow. But isn't there neglect of certain areas of female health, like breast cancer?

Warren: Personally, I think that all health research is neglected as compared to other priorities, but we have to remember that men are almost as likely to die from prostate cancer as women are from breast cancer. Yet our funding for breast cancer research is 660% greater than our funding for prostate cancer research. If it were the other way around, I would be protesting the sexism against women.

Tom: Now what about the neglect of women's health issues such as ovarian cancer and menopause?

Warren: Fortunately, the neglect is being remedied by the Office of Research on Women's Health. But there is no Office of Research on Men's Health addressing any of the seventeen areas of men's health that are now being neglected.

Tom: Seventeen? Some examples?

Warren: Testicular cancer, non-specific urethritis, the development of a male birth control pill, looking at issues that could create and prevent male suicide, posttraumatic stress syndrome, circumcision as a possible trauma producing experience, dyslexia, the underlying causes of male violence, the factors that lead to males being 85% of the homeless, rehabilitation methods in order to prevent recidivism of the 94% of prisoners who are men, sexual impotence, color blindness, steroid abuse, and so on.

Tom: Can I get back to the heart attacks for one moment? Isn't it true that a woman dying of heart attacks occurs at the same rate as men?

Warren: It's interesting that we have all heard that and technically speaking that is true. But what we have not heard is that nearly three-fourths of women who die of heart attacks are 75 years old or older. By that time the average man has already been dead for three years.

Tom: Now I've also heard that men with heart attack symptoms are more likely to receive the most advanced and effective operations. Is that true?

Warren: Yes, that is true, but what we don't hear is the reason. The woman is much more likely to have her heart attack when she is much older, therefore she is more likely to have other complications as well, and therefore surgery is more likely to end her life because of the other complications.

Tom: Therefore surgery is much more dangerous for someone that much older.

Warren: Exactly, and what we are told is that the 50-year-old man who has heart attack symptoms is likely to have those other complications, and therefore is also more at risk for surgery. In brief, when age and other complicating factors are controlled for, studies show there is no difference between the treatment of men versus the treatment of women for heart attacks.

Tom: You know, given all this, it sounds like what you are saying is the real sexism is in the concern that we have expressed for women versus the lack of concern that we express for men.

Warren: Exactly, and the sad thing though, is that when one sex loses, both sexes lose. A woman who loses her husband, her dad, or her son also loses. To put it another way, just when one sex appears to win, both sexes lose.

Tom: You mentioned in your chapter on the "Insanity Track," which deals with men at the top, that these men are not really powerful, because power is control over one's own life and these people at the top often lose control over their own life. Do you feel this is true even of people like lawyers and doctors?

Warren: Yes, I think it is. The alcoholism among lawyers is twice as high as it is among the general population. 41% of lawyers would choose to enter a different profession if they had to do it all over again. Among doctors, first-year residents in pediatrics and obstetrics average 90 hours per week. An additional point. One in ten surgical residents exceed 122 hours per week.

Tom: What happens when men "just say no" to providing this financial womb, as you call it?

Warren: When men "just say no," so to speak, they become invisible, especially to women. Or they become ostracized, often by both sexes. For example, Black men are often the subject of ridicule by Black women and have been for many years. American Indian men or Native American men

were admired until they no longer protected women effectively and then they were confined to the reservations of their defeat. Gay men, the men who will not protect women, have been ostracized by both sexes in nearly all cultures.

Tom: As you pointed before, unemployed and homeless men are not being pursued by women. It would follow that we are far more concerned with women as victims of violence than we would be as men as victims of violence. Is that true?

Warren: Yes, it is true. For every woman who is murdered, three men are murdered. With the exception of rape, the more violent the crime, the more likely the victim is to be a man. Forcible rape constitutes less than four percent of the violent crimes. Violent crimes of which men are the victim constitute 94%.

Tom: Of course, men commit most of the violent crime.

Warren: Yes, it is interesting that when we hear that Blacks are the greatest victims of violent crimes, we consider it racist to say that Blacks commit most of the violent crimes against Blacks so therefore . . . The victim is a victim no matter who the perpetrator was.

Tom: Are we less sympathetic to men because we consider violence a symbol of male power?

Warren: Yes, I think that is the reason that we are less sympathetic, but I would also like to challenge that reason as being inaccurate. Violence is almost always the outgrowth of powerlessness, not power, be it Black powerlessness or male powerlessness.

Tom: Tell me about that.

Warren: My first education on this issue came in the mid 1980's when in Flint, Michigan, at that time a town with a very low rate of rape, murder and spouse abuse. There 30,000 autoworkers were either unemployed or dislodged from their jobs when the General Motors plants shut down. Flint, Michigan, within a year or two, soon had a higher rate of violent crime than New York City. It reported 285 rapes in 1985 alone, which was a staggering figure for a town of only 150,000 people. In brief, people become criminals when there is a gap between their expectations to provide and their ability to provide. When they experience powerlessness they become criminals. Not power.

Tom: You know, Warren, after hearing all this there is one question that really troubles me. Why is it that all of us, both males and females, seem to be so resistant to hearing and understanding how men are hurt?

Warren: Historically, woman as victim attracts men. Man as victim repulses woman. Almost every day we see this acted out. When a woman's tire goes flat, for example, she will suddenly allow a strange man off the highway an opportunity to help her. But if a man's tire goes flat, she rarely stops to help a man despite the fact that when a man's tire goes flat she has much more of an opportunity to look him over first. Historically women dropped handkerchiefs, that is, they played victims. When they dropped the handkerchief, this was a way for them to discover where the saviors were located. When men drop handkerchiefs we pick them up. We see this sort of repulsion to man as victim everywhere. Corporal punishment is still legal in 29 states, but practically speaking, corporal punishment is boy punishment. The same type of thing as with capital punishment, practically speaking it is male only punishment. We consider it racist to hit Black boys more than white boys, but no school protests the propensity to hit only boys.

Tom: Okay, let's look at this point. Feminists have objected to violence against women on TV and in films. Is that a valid issue?

Warren: I think that we are definitely a society that is addicted to violence, but I would like to confront our violence towards both sexes. In fact people who are killed on TV entertainment programs, about 97% are men. In the movies it is about 95% men. Six of our most popular film types are "men die" films. Westerns are men killing men, war movies are men killing men, murder mysteries—men killing men. Women in jeopardy films are mostly men killing men. Mob films are men killing men, and gang films the same thing. We repeatedly pay to watch the murder of men by men.

Tom: Why does it seem like there is a higher percentage of women dying?

Warren: It is because we care so much more about when a woman dies or even when she is hurt. This is why some films focus so much on the woman in jeopardy. It makes us care, but almost always in a "woman in jeopardy" film the woman is saved, when in fact many men usually die saving her. Our concern is for the woman, but the sacrifice is of the man. A man who puts a woman in jeopardy is unforgiven, which is of course what was unforgiven in the film *Unforgiven*. One woman was hurt in that film and about a dozen men were killed in the process of teaching a couple of men that they better not even hurt a woman. Note that I said "about a dozen men" because I am not even sure how many died in the film. The men who died were actually less visible than the one woman who was hurt.

Tom: Part three of *The Myth of Male Power*, perhaps the most shocking and powerful part of the book, is called "The Government as Substitute Husband." You have chapter titles including "Women Who Kill Too Much and the Courts that Free Them." It sounded like a spook until I started reading about the twelve different "female defenses" such as "The Battered Woman Syndrome" which will allow a woman to kill a man and get a reduced sentence or go free on probation, without a man in a parallel situation having that option. Would you start out by first explaining what you mean by "The Government as Substitute Husband?"

Warren: Yes, okay. When divorces left women without a husband as savior, many women started to look for substitute saviors. The poor woman looked to AFDC payments, for example.

Tom: Aids to Families with Dependent Children [AFDC]?

Warren: Exactly. If the government paid more than the man could, she would in essence choose the government over the man, in a sense marry the government. This was especially reinforced by the fact that the government would only give AFDC payments to her if the man wasn't around.

Tom: Would they give AFDC payments to the man if the woman wasn't around and the man took care of the children?

Warren: Basically, no. The requirements for a man to get AFDC payments were much tougher and virtually impossible. This is of course unconstitutional, but it exists. The government did not play substitute wife, either by providing the man any domestic services or by providing the man income.

Tom: But you are saying, then, that in the past years with the rise of the feminist movement that the government has played substitute husband to more middle class women as well.

Warren: Yes. Programs for example like the WIC, which is the Women, Infants, and Children program. These programs were increasingly developed for women, infants, and children, but not for men, infants, and children. As women entered the workplace the government passed more laws to protect women from dirty jokes than they did to protect men from death via faulty rafters at construction sites.

Tom: It's funny, the more things change . . .

Warren: Yes, exactly. You can see this even among New Age women and men. New Age women often went from father, to husband, to guru. Men, we often competed to be their guru. In the name of enlightenment neither sex was looking to change their fundamental role. What had been true among traditional women and men, for example, going from father, to husband, to God the Father, and men competing to be their fathers either as priests or rabbis, really wasn't that much different than it was among New Age women and men.

Tom: I assume you would acknowledge that men make the laws, but it sounds like your saying that although laws were made almost always by men they're not made for men at least when it came to male/female issues.

Warren: Correct. At least that can be said unequivocally prior to women having the vote. For example, in the 1992 presidential election, 54% of the voters were female, 46% were male. Women's votes outnumbered men's by more than seven million.

Tom: Your point being that the voter is in control.

Warren: Basically the legislator is like a chauffeur and the voter is like the owner of the limo. The voter or the owner of the limo tells the chauffeur where to go, so to speak. And it's the chauffeur's job to choose how to get the owner there. The ultimate power is in the owner or the voter who can fire the chauffeur as soon as the contract is up if she or he does not do a good job getting us where we tell him or her to go.

Tom: Well, what about the fact that so many legislators are men?

Warren: The sex of the legislator is less important than the sex of the voter. Ultimately, the voter owns the legislator. The legislator is the servant, the chauffeur. Men are often better protectors of women than women are. Both sexes vote for protectors of females. Anytime women want more women or even all women to be legislators, that's exactly what would happen. Women have 54% of the vote.

Tom: You said that the system protects women on every level more than it does men, even female criminals. Can you explain?

Warren: A man convicted of murder is 20 times more likely than a woman convicted of murder to receive the death penalty. Since 1954 approximately 70,000 women have murdered about 60,000 men. But not one woman has been executed for only killing a man.

Tom: So, the death penalty is a male-only penalty?

Warren: Not quite. Women receive the death penalty a small percentage of the time, but only men actually get executed. There's only been one exception to this, in 1976, at the point when the death penalty was reinstated. That was the execution of a woman who said she preferred to be executed

and who killed, of course . . .

Tom: A woman.

Warren: Exactly.

Tom: Well, is there sex discrimination in sentencing for other crimes?

Warren: Yes. Being male contributes to a longer sentence more than race does or any other factor, either legal or extra-legal. Ironically, sentencing guidelines were introduced to eliminate racial discrimination, not sex discrimination. Although there's about a 70% addition for being male for crimes like burglary or larceny, even when the history of those crimes are relatively equal, the initial sex discrimination occurs prior even to the trial.

Tom: Prior to the trial?

Warren: Yes. For example, if a couple is a partner in committing a crime, prosecutors will almost always give the woman the first option to have the charges against her dropped in exchange for helping them get evidence against the man. So, he ends up with a prison record, she doesn't. Then, of course if they both commit another crime, he can legitimately receive a longer sentence. He had a worse criminal history.

Tom: How is this rationalized? After all, you pointed out that the 14th Amendment guarantees that there not be discrimination according to sex and that both sexes receive equal protection under the law.

Warren: It's rationalized, for example, by saying that the woman is brainwashed by the man. However, even when a woman is in charge, men still do more time. For example, in the *McMartin Pre-school Case*, Peggy McMartin was the school's director and she hired her 19-year-old grandson. Although both were indicted on 52 counts of child molestation and both were eventually to be found not guilty, she, the director, spent less than two years in jail, while he spent nearly 5 years in jail.

Tom: Well, how is it that they spent all this time in jail even though they were found not guilty?

Warren: They were awaiting trial, and it became the longest trial in US history. My question is, Would we have tolerated the longest trial in US criminal history, while a granddaughter eventually found not guilty, nevertheless, spent half her 20s in prison for allegedly touching children?

Tom: I don't think so. Is this tendency to be protective of women versus men true even among boys versus girls when we're talking about children?

Warren: Yes. For example, when two teenagers Marjory Filipiak and Keith Wilkins both pled guilty to be coconspirators in a murder and neither was a hardened criminal, Keith Wilkins got the death sentence and Marjory Filipiak went free.

Tom: Why is that?

Warren: Almost always when a girl is a criminal we look for a way to blame the parents or the girl's background. But when Keith Wilkins, for example, was found to be a victim of child sexual abuse, it didn't deter the judge from giving him the death sentence.

Tom: As I recall, Keith Wilkins was just 16 years old. We hear a lot about the poor prison conditions

that women have to endure.

Warren: In fact while a lot can validly be said about the poverty of prison conditions, female prisoners relative to men are in prison situations which are far more rehabilitative. There's more money per female prisoner and any given man in prison is still 1,000% as likely as any given woman to die by a suicide, homicide or execution.

Tom: To say nothing of the rape in men's prisons.

Warren: Yes.

Tom: With all that you're saying, how is it that some of the commissions on gender bias have reported that it is women who are the victims of discrimination?

Warren: They do it by saying things like: "Women receive longer periods of probation," which is true because women go free on probation, while men get the prison sentences.

Tom: Aren't these government commissions?

Warren: They are government commissions only in the sense that they're paid for by the government, meaning us. But the commissions were formed as an outgrowth of the feminist National Organization for Women and mostly feminist National Association of Women judges. If a political party did this we'd call it a scandal. When feminists do this it's called official. Feminism has in a sense become gender politics' one-party system.

Tom: Amazing. You mentioned a lot of other discriminations in *The Myth of Male Power*, like the fact that we tell women that they have the right to children but tell men they have to fight for children. But maybe one of the most interesting ones was this double standard of community property.

Warren: Yes, do you remember Jim and Tammy Faye Baker?

Tom: Yes, how can I forget!

Warren: Now they both had equal rights to profits in the business, no matter what role Tammy played, but when the business got into trouble Jim got 40 years in prison and Tammy Faye got . . .

Tom: None.

Warren: Exactly. Tammy Faye didn't even have to appear in court. On the surface this appears justifiable if Tammy didn't know what was going on. But if equality means women share legal rights to the profits in a marriage, no matter what role she played and even if she didn't know what was going on or no matter how illegally those profits were accrued . . . And equality also means women share legal responsibility for any illegalities in creating those profits no matter what role she plays. If community property is couple profit regardless of role, it must become couple responsibility regardless of role.

Tom: Any exceptions to this rule?

Warren: Yes. If the man systematically falsifies information despite his wife's questioning. But we cannot make a full partner innocent because of ignorance. No one will suggest making only the mother financially responsible for the damage caused by a child "since the father was ignorant of what was going on." We would say that the father's lack of awareness was part of what created the

delinquency. An unaware father is considered negligent, not innocent. Allowing women to receive the upside of profits but to avoid the downside of prison encourages women to assign their husbands all the financial risks. It reinforces female as child and gives her the incentive to avoid sophistication and therefore leads to her financial dependency. And for that reason in the final analysis community property without community responsibility is really discrimination against women.

Tom: Discrimination against women?

Warren: By keeping her financially dependent.

Tom: Ah. Well, let's move now to the chapter I was mentioning before on the twelve female only defenses called "Women Who Kill Too Much and the Courts that Free Them."

Warren: Yes, and of course, neither women nor men are exempt from killing loved ones. I want to make that clear at the onset. The difference is what happens to them when they do. In all these twelve defenses I'll be talking about a woman who commits a premeditated murder and had the charges dropped or significantly reduced. So far, no man has ever successfully been able to use any of these defenses to successfully do the same, and there are no defenses. Therefore each of these defenses violate the 14th Amendment and the combination creates a female standard of self-defense, versus a male standard which I believe will wreak havoc in the legal system for decades and be affecting for a lifetime our children's fear of commitment, especially our sons' fear of commitment.

Tom: I'd like to get an overview of these twelve defenses. You call one of them the "Innocent Woman Defense." Tell me more about that.

Warren: An example of the "Innocent Woman Defense" comes with a woman named Blanche Taylor Moore. First, she killed her husband with arsenic, then she killed her boyfriend and her father. Then, she intended to kill her second husband before the police even became suspicious. Now this all happened in one very small community. It was the assumption of her innocence that allowed her to escape from serious questioning for a quarter of a century.

Tom: Assumption automatic because she was a woman.

Warren: The underlying problem with the assumption of innocence is the frequency with which the woman kills again. It's ironic that we live in an era in which the release of Willy Horton was enough to ruin a presidential candidate even as we "release female Willy Hortons by not questioning it."

Tom: Okay, tell me about what you call the "PMS Defense."

Warren: The "PMS Defense" freed Christine English after she confessed to killing her boyfriend by deliberately ramming him into a utility pole with a car.

Tom: Ouch.

Warren: This has led to other hormonal defenses such as near my hometown in San Diego where a woman named Cheryl Masip placed her 6-month-old son under her car, ran over him repeatedly, and then, uncertain he was dead did it again, then, claiming post-partum depression. Her sentence: outpatient help, no evidence protested. The "PMS Defense" and other hormonal defenses

really bother me because they assume superficial protection for women that leads to long-term discrimination against women.

Tom: Tell me about that.

Warren: For example, if a woman can murder while she is under the influence of PMS, she can clearly be a reckless driver when she's under the influence of PMS. And if she doesn't know when she's under the influence this becomes a reason not to let women drive. We're back to women as children.

Tom: What would be the male equivalent of a PMS defense?

Warren: Oh, my God. Probably a "TP Defense," like a testosterone poisoning hormonal defense. And you could imagine where they would go with that one. Of course, there is none and there better never be one but the same logic that says women can murder and claim PMS would say men can rape and claim testosterone poisoning.

Tom: Ah, of course.

Warren: I didn't think I could ever live in a society where either one would be justifiable.

Tom: Well, in some ways one of the most amazing defenses used is the next one called the "Learned Helplessness Defense" or the Battered Woman Syndrome.

Warren: Yes. Until 1982 almost anyone who called a premeditated murder self-defense would have been laughed out of court. But when in 1990 the governor of Ohio released from prison 25 women who had been convicted of killing or severely assaulting their husbands, Ohio became the 15th state to allow women who murder their husbands to possibly get away with it by claiming past abuse. Notice that I said "claiming" because they're husbands were dead and could not refute it.

Tom: What's the main issue you have with this "Battered Woman Defense" or "Learned Helplessness Defense"?

Warren: First, any defense must apply to both sexes whenever it is applicable. There are tens of thousands of men who also experience learned helplessness but who are without a learned helplessness defense.

Tom: And you mention in your book the astounding fact that the sexes batter each other about equally.

Warren: Yes, this is one of the most amazing secrets of the last to emerge since 1980. Every study that has ever examined spouse abuse by asking both sexes (not just women) how often they were abused has found that approximately equal amount of men are abused by their wives as vice versa because it doesn't hurt a man as much to be hit by a woman. A woman is more likely to resort to more severely physical violence like throwing boiling water over the man or hitting him with a frying pan. But I don't want to get side tracked here on the studies that prove equality of battering. Even if only 5% of the abuse was female to male and even if it was applicable only to men who escape their female caretakers who experience "Battered Man Syndrome," it would be unconstitutional not to have a "Learned Helplessness for Men" when we have one for women.

Tom: Feminists complain that women are more afraid than men to report their abusers to the authorities.

Warren: Actually, the opposite is true. Despite the 14 separate studies that I just referenced, there are two sex studies finding that women and men are equally as likely to batter. More than 90% of the reports are made by women, which is why we think men are the predominately battering sex. Women, then, are about 9 times likely as men to report their abusers to authorities. Part of male socialization is to “take it like a man” and “take it like a man” is the male version of learned helplessness. Women’s strength is their facade of weakness. Men’s weakness is their façade of strength.

Tom: It’s amazing how much of this we never think about, never see. Can we switch now from death to sex?

Warren: Gladly.

Tom: The first thing you deal with in the “Politics of Sex” chapter is why sexual harassment is such a big issue for women. Tell me about that.

Warren: A lot of women say that men don’t get it when it comes to sexual harassment, and actually they’re right. And the reason is this: when a woman is growing up, her early years she’s focused on and gets a lot of her attention because of her attractiveness or lack of attractiveness. And then she enters the workplace. She’s very attractive and she’s getting her attention because of a lot of attractiveness issues. She begins to think to herself “am I valued as a worker?” Now a man when he’s growing up gets his attention based on things like performance. When he gets into the workplace, he’s still being evaluated based on performance. So the workplace is a fairly easy extension of adolescence for a boy. It is not an easy extension of adolescence for a girl. The best way I can help a man understand this is imagine if you were always getting compliments on your mechanical ability.

Tom: Okay.

Warren: And now suddenly you’re being evaluated by a social worker to see if you’re a good parent, and the social worker is constantly complimenting you how the grease under your fingernails really turns her on because it reminds her of what a great mechanic you are. And you realize you’re going to lose custody over your child if she isn’t focusing on you as a good parent. That’s the equivalent of the woman’s fear that she’s going to lose the ability to get a promotion because the man’s always focused on her sexually when she wants to be evaluated based on her work competence.

Tom: Yet doesn’t the current approach to sexual harassment seem to so many men to be unfair?

Warren: Yes, men see something else happening at the workplace. Approximately two-thirds of women who enter the workplace when they’re single and who get married, marry a man whom they met at the workplace or through a workplace contact. Now most of the men that they ended up marrying are men who were above them at work—number one or number two—men who took the sexual initiative. Now this is also the definition of sexual harassment: a man above you at work who takes the initiative. It can be one of two things: a future potential candidate for marriage or a future potential candidate for a lawsuit. It can be a future husband and a future harasser. And so men feel like when the situation works for the woman, they call it courtship. When it doesn’t work they call it harassment. “You know, what is this?” But when no one is saying the woman will take responsibility and she’ll ask me out, I’m still expected socially to take the sexual initiative and if I don’t I’ll be watching all the guys around me who do walk that thin line between a courtship possibility and a harassment lawsuit. So he’s sort of saying to himself, “When it works it’s called mar-

riage with the woman's picture in the paper, and when it doesn't work it's called a lawsuit and my picture's in the paper."

Tom: Could men be overstating this, though? Isn't it only really harassment when he persists?

Warren: Legally, actually not, and here's the reason. I could ask out a woman who is working for me and it's absolutely true that just one asking of her out can make her feel very awkward and uncomfortable by having to say no to me. In the future because I've made a work experience to a social experience and she's rejecting me, she feels like she's in a hostile working environment, and she's fearing that I will be negative to her. And so it's legitimate that the woman can feel like she's in a hostile working environment after I have socially initiated. But the solution to that is not what she's legally allowed to do, which is to make it into a lawsuit, because right now the lawsuit can be upheld merely when the woman feels like the environment is hostile and it's reasonable that she feels that way.

Tom: In practical terms, though, aren't most lawsuits against men who simply wouldn't take no for an answer?

Warren: I think practically speaking, that's probably true. Yet when we hear about the experiences of the exceptions it makes almost every man just not know where the boundaries are with a given woman. And it's also true that many women acknowledge marrying men to whom at first they had said no, and who had in fact persisted. By today's standards these women are married to people who are legitimate sexual harassers or a [quote] "sexual harasser." But many of these women say that they are glad these men persisted. They're married to these men.

Tom: So, men are going to feel confused.

Warren: Other men, not you and I. I think what makes a lot of men confused is that they see women taking indirect initiatives and they're quite sure they are indirect initiatives but they know that, so they respond to them that they're the ones that could be held vulnerable, and they get this idea reinforced when they see women reading things like *Cosmopolitan* magazine and the article is telling things to women like this and I'm actually quoting from *Cosmopolitan*, "As you pass his desk, drop a pile of papers or a purse. Then, stoop down to gather them up. He'll pick it up. Lean close to him; put your hand on his shoulder to steady your balance." Another example is "If you're interested in him, just pick off a little bit of lint from his jacket, make personal contact, or brush up against him in the elevator, or wear a very tight, short skirt and bend over to pick up something or to look in the file drawer." And the problem with that is if the man responds to a woman who has just picked off some lint off of his jacket, and they're in court and the judge says, "Well, why did you start an issue with her?" and he says, "Well, your honor, she initiated it. She picked lint off of my jacket"—he's not on very strong ground.

Tom: Well, in other words, as this example of things women get from magazines like *Cosmopolitan*, women are being taught to take indirect initiatives to start relationships.

Warren: Yes, and indirect initiatives have historically worked and they still do. But, the problem is that sometimes the wrong man approaches the woman who's leaned over the file drawer in a tight, short skirt and when he approaches her discomfort may make it feel like a hostile environment to her. Legitimately so, and he becomes vulnerable to a lawsuit.

Tom: Because in her mind he was the wrong man not the one that she wanted. Well, is there some-

thing deeper going on here?

Warren: Yes, but first I want to make it clear that a lot of sexual harassment lawsuits are legitimate, and at the same time it's also true that something deeper is going on here. What we may be having with sexual harassment lawsuits are further updated versions of the female selection process of making it hard for men to go through hoops to see which men are willing to take risks. Since with birth control we were able to minimize the amount of risks that need to be taken by men toward women, these sexual harassment lawsuits and the date rape legislation are a way of seeing whether men can jump through new hoops without getting caught and without stumbling.

Tom: This time risking their careers.

Warren: This time risking their careers. Correct. Historically speaking, one of the reasons that women said "No" was that they found out which men were interested enough to keep pursuing them and which men got past their nose with finesse. That was a woman's way of testing which were the men who could overcome life's barriers. If he could overcome life's barriers, he's going to be a good breadwinner. If he was a salesperson and the first time he got no for an answer and said, "Okay, you don't want the product? Goodbye," she knew she didn't have a breadwinner on her hands.

Tom: So, what's your underlying objection to sexual harassment legislation in its present form?

Warren: I believe that we need to be re-socializing both sexes simultaneously, not just blaming men. We need to be encouraging women to take their own initiatives and risk rejection. And the same time we need to start saying to men, When a woman says "No," stop. We need to have women take responsibility for the consequences of her "No." Don't keep telling her in essence when you say "No," I'll keep trying harder. We need to encourage both sexes to take different types of sexual responsibility than we've been trained to take it in the past.

Tom: Do you think there are other areas of misunderstanding around this whole issue?

Warren: Maybe a hundred or so! I think two of the ones that are really important are dirty jokes and the whole hazing issue. We're often told that dirty jokes are the male method of intimidating women. In fact, men tell dirty jokes to peers to bond to peers not to intimidate peers.

Tom: Tell me about that.

Warren: When a boss tells a dirty joke, it's often his unconscious way of getting staff to not take him so seriously, and therefore, not to be intimidated.

Tom: Ah. Well, what about hazing?

Warren: Hazing has a fascinating background. Men haze each other as an unconscious way of teaching other men to survive attacks to their vulnerable areas. That's what you see when adolescent boys put each other down or haze each other. That's what they're training themselves to do: to handle attacks without being defeated by those attacks. So, a short guy, for example, would be a victim of jokes like: "Which is higher: your IQ or your size." Historically, men knew that if a man was preoccupied with his vulnerability he was not able to be a protector because he'd be preoccupied with himself. So, all novices and all tough high status organizations were hazed before they could be accepted as part of a team. Men always tested men before they trusted men. If a woman isn't being hazed, she's not being tested, and therefore, she's not being trusted.

Tom: Now wait a minute now. Are you telling me that you think hazing is good?

Warren: No. It used to be helpful for men to disconnect from their feelings in order to be able to handle their job. But, if we want men to be free to also have jobs that are fulfilling, we have to be okay with men not spending time disconnecting from their feelings and denying what they want to be. I think we must realize, though, that male hazing was not an outcome of men being powerful, but it's an outcome of men making themselves part of the machine, part of a team, like in the military and not taking things personally was a part of that. I think women are more inclined to protest criticism and hazing because fewer women have ever been trained to think of themselves as a replaceable part, especially in the workplace. So, historically the defenses that men created to be able to handle hazing was their armor, but it was their armor that allowed other people not to have to wear armor.

Tom: Another myth of power.

Warren: Very much so.

Tom: Tell me, though, what is the single most important solution a woman can employ who believes she is being harassed?

Warren: Tell the man directly, privately and compassionately, how it makes you feel—how it makes you feel less productive and less valued. Almost every woman I know who has approached a man and told him in this way has found the man apologizing.

Tom: Okay, we've got now way through this whole minefield of sexual harassment. Let's try the politics of rape. The first thing you challenged in the chapter on rape was the belief that rape was the outgrowth of male power.

Warren: Correct. The reason any given Black man is three times as likely to be reported a rapist as a White man is not because Blacks have more power than Whites. You remember the Flint, Michigan, example we talked about before? I think that's a really clear example that rape does not derive from power. It derives from powerlessness.

Tom: Okay.

Warren: But basically we are a society that addicts men to beautiful women . . .

Tom: We addict them?

Warren: We bombard them with thousands of images of beautiful women. If we did this with cocaine, we'd all consider this an addiction. And suddenly after we addict the boys to beautiful women, we deprive them of what they're addicted to. And it's that one two punch that leaves men feeling powerless, leaves men feeling addicted and then deprived.

Tom: And then we're amazed when the men who are most deprived and have the least to lose seem to strike out to get more of what they're deprived of.

Warren: Exactly.

Tom: But haven't we been told over and over again that rape has nothing to do with sexual attraction?

Warren: We've been told that, and it's not accurate. When a woman is older she is much less likely

to be raped than when she's younger. If I say much less likely, I mean 8,400% less likely. She's 8,400% more likely to be raped when she's younger than when she's much older.

Tom: In other words, when a woman is very young and at the height of her sexual attractiveness, she's far more at risk of rape, so there must be something as far as attractiveness is concerned going on, and why she is more at risk.

Warren: That's exactly right

Tom: Tell me about that and the assertion that we've heard so much that rape is really just an act of violence.

Warren: It is an act of violence but it's not just an act of violence. Violence is the reason and result of a whole series of things that we do to men and women in society around the issue of sexuality. It's the result of a society that addicts men to beauty and beautiful women and addicts men to sex with beautiful women and then it deprives men of the sex with the beautiful women that they've just addicted them to, which of course, creates anger. It tells men that sex is dirty and then it says to men, you guys have initiated the dirt. And then it wonders why we don't trust men who initiated something that is dirty. So, it's made men insecure by having to initiate something at the age of thirteen or fourteen. They have to initiate sex before they even know what sex is and before they even understand what a woman is. Then, during the days of their greatest amount of fragility of identity they have to be put their identity on the line and risk rejection. They are the only sex that has to do that by expectation not by option. So, we tell men, "We've addicted you to the sex with the beautiful women, we're going to deprive you of what you're addicted to. We're not going to trust you, initiate the dirt, and then wonder why they get angry, feel rejected, feel fragile, feel insecure, feel powerless, and eventually strike out."

Tom: So, it sounds like what you're saying is rape is a result of anger and it is an act of violence, but it also has been very much factored into it whether or not a man is feeling sexually attracted to a woman.

Warren: Yes, it's part of the whole imitation of expectations and addictions that we do to men combined with the deprivations, and it's all of that together that we have to address if we're going to stop rape.

Tom: Well, is part of what you're suggesting that we need to do in order to reduce rape is to reduce a constant ideation that men get with images of female beauty and sexuality?

Warren: Yes, if I was at a PTA meeting and I said, "Listen it's harmless, I'm sure. We're going to introduce to your children every day images of cigarettes and cocaine. No problem, right?" I mean the parents would say, "Wait a minute. This is going to addict our children to cigarettes and cocaine, right? And we don't want children to grow up this way." But we do this every day with beautiful women's sexuality and then we wonder why our boys are addicted to it. We don't even think about the fact that it might be related to what we're doing.

Tom: I remember in the book that you point out that all of the images that boys see from a very young age in magazines and television commercials are always of females, are always the very young, attractive females. Boys are constantly bombarded with images that say, "See you, male, that is the kind of woman that we want you to be addicted to, that you're supposed to be going after." But what I wonder when I know that you have a lot of empathy for the women's position on

these issues, isn't date rape a valid issue?

Warren: Of course. Going out with a woman doesn't mean you can have and should be able to have sex with her. It should be something that is a matter of communication between the two sexes. I also feel that on college campuses in particular we've taken that "woman as victim" situation to the extreme where we're making women into children. For example, college campuses, especially the most responsible and brightest ones are increasingly adopting policies that allow women to drink in the evening, say yes to sex, and then declare the following morning that she was raped based on the rationale that because she drank, she was under the influence and therefore, she was incapable of consenting. I have to tell you, I think that is the most blatant form of woman as child legislation that I have ever encountered.

Tom: Woman as child?

Warren: Yes, it basically denies that the woman made a choice to drink. When people make a choice to drink and drive, we don't say the accident wasn't their fault because they were put under the influence. The shocking thing is that this is happening at universities training the best and brightest women, supposedly being trained to take the most responsibility, for example, in the world of business. We should be trained to take the most responsibility sexually and not the least. Being under the influence is no excuse to avoid responsibility, the responsibility to make the choice to be under the influence and the responsibility for what comes afterwards. Men feel under the influence the moment they see a beautiful woman. Perfumes even promise to put men under the influence. Allowing women to not take responsibility because she is under the influence opens the gateway for allowing men to not take responsibility to have sex with a beautiful woman because he's under the influence.

Tom: Let's take a look at another part of all this: the statistics that show huge increases in the rate of rape. What's going on here?

Warren: The rape rate has actually been decreasing. It decreased until we changed the definition of rape to include date rape and even unwanted sexual activity. So, we used to define rape as stranger rape. Now it's defined by many feminists even as unwanted sexual activity. But the problem with that is even college surveys of college students who are men find that 94% of men feel that they have had unwanted sexual activity and even by the age of college years. So, what we've done is claimed that there's an increase in rape when in fact what we've done is changed and broadened the definition. So, if we had asked that same question back in 1960 or 1950 we probably would have gotten even higher statistics along those lines.

Tom: It sounds like one of the things that you're saying is that when we make this definition so broad we risk trivializing the whole issue.

Warren: Right. Well, soon we will have the meaning of the word rape be something that doesn't have the same impact on someone's mind. We will become very desensitized to it because of the overuse of it.

Tom: One of the really shocking sections of your book concerned false allegations of rape. Tell me, if you would, the findings from the US Air Force Study.

Warren: Yes, first of all, false allegations of rape are basically the male experience of rape because it just ruins his life to be accused of rape falsely. And I must say that probably the most shocking

finding of my book concerned the Office of Special Investigations of the US Air Force investigation of 566 cases of alleged rape that discovered that 27% of the women eventually admitted that they had lied.

Tom: 27%.

Warren: Yes, they usually admitted it just before or just after they took a lie detector test. The Air Force, then, took these 27% of women who admitted they had lied and developed 25 criteria that were common to these women. And then they went back and they reviewed all the remaining cases with these 25 criteria in mind. They had three independent reviewers from inside and outside the Air Force review all these cases, and if all three reviewers agreed that the rape allegation appeared to be false based on these 25 criteria they ranked those rapes as likely to be false as well.

Tom: Okay.

Warren: And when they did that they got 60% of rape allegations as likely to be false.

Tom: That's amazing.

Warren: It's amazing and it's also sad for both sexes because these women who are supposed to be the ultimate example of women in this country who are taking responsibility by saying that they are willing to put their lives on the line for their country.

Tom: Can you share the main motivations given by that 27% of women who eventually acknowledged that they had made false allegations? What did they say about why they did that?

Warren: There were about eight motivations listed and the main ones were spite and revenge that the women acknowledged were to compensate for feelings of guilt of shame. One woman I read about in the Air Force Study had gone to a party and she had sex in the backyard that evening after she met the man, but somebody saw her. She felt humiliated and she felt her reputation was going to be ruined so she said, "Well, he raped me." I became aware of this whole issue first when I met a man when I was hiking up where I have a cabin in the mountains in Iowa, and he had been Sailor of the Year in 1980. As we started talking and I told him what I was doing, he told me he had his career ruined by a false allegation that was motivated by a woman who had fled home to avoid a drug test in the Air Force, and when she was confronted by her parents she didn't know what to say, so she told her parents that she had been raped and that's why she left the barrack sites. Her parents, of course, were furious. They complained to the Air Force, and the woman was believed so quickly and unquestioningly that by the time the truth came out all the top brass were backed into a corner and none of them wanted to admit that they were wrong. So, no truth could catch the lie.

Tom: Next topic: rape shield laws, those laws that shield a woman's sexual past from being used against her in court without shielding a man's sexual past from being used against him in court. What's your reaction to all that?

Warren: Rape shield laws are really an amazing and a flagrant violation of our constitutional right to due process because they shield one party more than the other in a trial and therefore deny one party a fair trial, and they're also, therefore, a violation of 14th Amendment's Equal Protection of the Laws Clause.

Tom: I wonder if we should have you on the Supreme Court. What about laws that protect the iden-

tity of the women accusing the man of rape?

Warren: I think we have to ask ourselves in that type of situation: “Why are we protecting only her identity if the very purpose of a trial is to determine who is victimized, not to assume who is victimized?” It undermines the very purpose of the trial and that’s why it violates due process protection as well. The result is that somebody can be acquitted of an accusation of date rape and yet still be held in our minds as guilty, with his reputation ruined to the degree that almost no parent today would feel very comfortable with his daughter going out with him. And at the same time the person who accused him, even if it was a false allegation, had the option of keeping her identity a secret forever. She takes no risk. He, even if he is a victim of a false accusation, is ruined. Once we understand that it’s possible for a woman to make a false accusation and that a false accusation is to a man the equivalent of being raped, meaning that it can ruin his career and even make his family suspicious of him, and leads in many cases to suicide, then to protect one party and expose the other is not only unconstitutional, it’s also inhumane. I think that we would only ever think about doing that to a man.

Tom: Well, why would such flagrant violations be allowed by people who are sophisticated in the law?

Warren: Because even sophisticated people believe so strongly in female innocence that we were only able to conceive that a woman accusing a man of rape could have nothing but pure motivations, and therefore, once you start with that belief, any additional stress we put on somebody with pure motivations would be adding to the victimhood. So, our instincts to protect an innocent woman are so much stronger than our instincts to give a fair trial, and they are stronger than our instincts to allow men equal protection of the law, which is why so few people question male-only draft registration or the twelve female-only defenses.

Tom: What do you see as the solution to rape?

Warren: I think the most important single change we can make is re-socializing women to initiate sexually, to take responsibility for saying what they do want, not just what they don’t want. Simultaneously, I think we need to re-socialize men to pay attention to women’s “No’s” and make a woman who doesn’t mean her “No” live with the consequences of not being able to enjoy sexual contact.

Tom: We’re getting really close to having to sum all this up, Warren. What do you think are some of the most important things that you’d like people to get out of your book *The Myth of Male Power*?

Warren: That’s so hard to ask someone who’s worked on this thing for ten years. I think, first, understanding the wound that unifies all men is really the wound of our disposability, the belief that we will be more lovable if we risk our lives as soldiers and the death profession just to make more money, rather than to respect ourselves enough to know we can become lovable merely by loving.

Tom: You mention also that Stage Two technology has reversed what humans need to do to survive.

Warren: Yes, basically Stage Two society has created the opportunity for the species to survive without killing, and that’s wonderful. But, it’s also created the technology to end our species if we do kill. And so far what we’ve done in responding is by changing only what women do to survive. For example, we’ve used birth control to create female biology, not only as female destiny but also as male destiny. She can choose to abort or to sue for support.

Tom: And she's the one that has the choice.

Warren: Exactly. Choosing to abort is female biology as female destiny; choosing to sue for support is female biology as male destiny.

Tom: What do you think will be the single biggest dilemma facing the men's movement?

Warren: Unfortunately, the fact that there are very few political movements that are filled with healthy people and yet, at the same time, there are few healthy changes that have occurred without political movements.

Tom: I know we've talked about this already, but tell me again, why do you think we are so resistant to understanding when men are victimized?

Warren: I believe it's because men's victimizers' status camouflages men's victim status, and because we, as men, have not spoken up and we can't expect the world to hear what men have not said. We haven't spoken up in part because training to be a man is training to cut ourselves off from the feelings that we don't get in touch with and what we want to speak about.

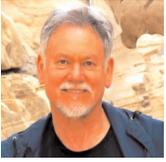
Tom: Cutting ourselves off from feelings leaves us with this inability to express how we feel.

Warren: Yes, and with a women's movement without a men's movement, would be like without having a movement of management without labor, and labor without management. Anytime you have one movement without some natural resistance to it, you lead to power which corrupts and absolute power that corrupts absolutely.

Tom: If a significant men's movement does surface, what do you think will be its main issues?

Warren: I think first confronting what I call the "Ten Glass Cellars of Male Disposability," the suicide we talked about, the men in prison, the homelessness (85% being men), the men in the death professions (94% of the people who die in jobs being men), men's earlier death from all 15 major diseases and accidents, violence against men in the form of circumcision, corporal punishment and capital punishment, to say nothing of the draft. I think a second big issue will be fathers confronting their experiences of taxation without representation, that is, divorced fathers experiencing themselves being taxed for their children without equal representation of their children's lives. But most of all, I hope I'll live to see the day when we get beyond a women's movement or a men's movement and we have a genuine gender transition movement. I know that that's going to require us to care as much about saving males as we care we care about saving whales, and as much about helping men become Stage Two men as we care about women becoming Stage Two women. I'd love to see that day before I die.

About the Author



Dr. Warren Farrell has been chosen by the *Financial Times* as one of the world's top 100 thought leaders, and by the Center for World Spirituality (in 2011) as one of the world's spiritual leaders. His books are published in over 50 countries, and in 15 languages. They include two award-winning international best-sellers, *Why Men Are The Way They Are* plus *The Myth of Male Power*. He can be reached at warren@warrenfarrell.com

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