

I was talking with a few friends about the inauguration, and someone noticed a friend wearing pearls. They mentioned them and asked if they were part of the nation-wide tribute to Vice President Harris being our first female Vice President. They were. If you haven't heard, people from all over the country have found a pandemic-appropriate way to celebrate VP Harris – they wore pearls, a regular part of VP Harris' wardrobe, and Chucks (Converse All-Stars), VP Harris' shoe of choice while on the campaign trail.

This led us to a conversation about wardrobes, clothing, and the disparity of expectations between males in power and females in power. From the press to their rivals, women in positions of power know that their wardrobe will be praised or mocked, often more than their accomplishments or positions on issues. I have personally heard story after story from female pastors of ways their congregations have judged them by their clothing. Not surprisingly, the only wardrobe comments male pastors get is about whether they wear a robe (or a tie) or not.

Sexism is alive and well in 2021. Whether considering [pay](#) (women in our enlightened age STILL make only \$.81 where an equal male makes \$1.00 as of 2020), or [opportunities](#) (the global labor force participation rate for women is 49%, while for men it is 75% as of 2018), women are still held back simply because they are women.

As a gag gift, my daughter received "[Ms. Monopoly](#)", a revision of the age old classic, but where the tables are turned. When you pass go, men still get \$200, but women get \$240. The properties are no longer famous streets but are innovations created by women. The whole game is a celebration of women that shouldn't have to exist.

When the Apostle Paul said in Gal. 3:28-29, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise", he placed spiritual sexism right beside racism as something inappropriate in the Kingdom of God. This is not to say men and women aren't different – we are. It is to say that we should not judge someone based on their gender any more than we should judge someone based on their race.

Watching a TV show last week, I realized that with over 30 main characters, I couldn't remember everyone's name (it didn't help that the show was in Japanese). At one point I was trying to remember as many of them as I could quickly, and I found myself remembering them by their traits. Yet with the female characters, the traits I remembered were universally physical, while for the male characters the traits I remembered were mostly behavioral. Yes, sexism is alive and well, even in my own head. But I'm working on it, and every day growing closer to seeing everyone, male or female, as God sees them.