

## The Three Oppressions By Rod E. Keays

Globally, men's gender issues are the elephant in the room: invisible, unnoticed and for the most part irrelevant. In most cultures and for many people, even in the west the primary roles of men are to create wealth, provide protection and create security. So, for most men in the global context at least, any challenge to the validity of these issues are invisible and rarely occur. The reasons for this are complex but in many circumstances men believe they have not fulfilled the role expectations of their cultures...at least not yet. And for many men, yet never comes. In the west, many men have accomplished all three cultural expectations (isolation, never having enough, never being enough) and can now choose a different cultural identity. However, many of these men do not know when to stop, so they fail to realize they have already accomplished or vastly exceeded what was expected of them. Some have exceeded what was expected of them and now give vast sums to charity. They did not have to wait this long! But some do not know when to quit! It is highly possible that they're level of oppression was so great they could not stop before. Could they have just been lucky? Regardless, they can now relax and give back to their community, that is, the community who gave them the wealth in the first place. Philanthropy is just the first step though, and future solutions will require an even bigger transformation of thought.

As was mentioned in the Introduction male roles began as a reaction to the demands of the environment and the needs of the community. Also, this paradigm has continued into present times. We are all ruled by these beliefs and they are unconscious evidence of our oppression as men.

However, the transformation I mentioned above requires men to believe in personal freedom from blackmail and live out their daily lives free of this oppression by acknowledging:

- There is no enemy, only different levels of compassion or empathy. Isolation is a myth we assume will protect us.
- There is enough for all if we share, therefore we do not need to fear for our survival. And...
- We are good enough, even right now, to be loved and cared for. Therefore accepting and living out these three new sets of core beliefs will transform our civilization.

Addressing male oppressions will put much of the global conflict for property, entitlement, and abuses of power under the microscope. Since much of the prevailing orthodoxy about men is that we crave power instead of the reality that we are required to be powerful in order to be acknowledged. This has to be felt before men can be free of their oppression. This should be quite simple to see since

it is only normal men with power who get the rewards. Clearly the rewards need redistribution.

To sum up our oppression in one sentence: We endlessly compete for resources based upon the false premise that there is never enough.