

Masculinity (a summary of Linda Lindsey's chapter from *Gender Roles*, 2005)

Definition: Components of Masculinity

Courageous (physically): ignore pain

Risk-taking

Competent (often defined as "being first" or on the way to the top)

Always in control of self (stoicism) and situation = toughness, not backing down.

Aggressive (compete hard and "push back" hard when pushed)

Independent (reliance on others is interpreted as dependence)

The opposite of masculinity = femininity = weakness

Boys are expected to be "bad": one advertisement sells a car by calling it "a car with an attitude"

Problems to the self (stemming from the above definition):

Anxiety (p. 242)-- intense pressure to live up to the impossible

Academic problems in school (Bill Gates is not as much of a role model as Michael Jordan)

Brutalized bodies

Psychological defensiveness

Isolation from male intimacy (except through violent contact sports, which "prove" non-feminine qualities)

Disconnection from one's own emotions (boys are urged to turn all insecurity, fear, and doubt into anger/aggression)

Feeling "driven" in one's job and losing one's self-image if not a "success" (making lots of money)

Problems to the society (stemming from the above definition):

Everything feminine is devalued as being weakness:

The words *emotional, intuitive, forgiving, supportive, apologizing* imply weakness if describing a man in a public (non-domestic) situation

Calling a guy a "girl" is a bad insult

Academic problems in school and decreased literacy and college graduation are increasing

Diplomacy and interpersonal negotiation skills are devalued (e.g. Jimmy Carter) in favor of confrontation

Sexual aggressiveness is taken as "normal"

Parenting becomes a secondary role (the words *fathering* vs. *mothering* mean different things)

Homophobia (fear and loathing of "gender deviation") is common

(The worst insults man-to-man are words implying homosexuality, often when neither person is actually homosexual; words implying homosexuality are not the worst insults among women)

Violence against women (e.g. rape) is common (see statistics in the Lindsey xerox and the Romaine text)

Words reflect social expectations and values: *fathering, mothering emotional, intuitive, forgiving, supportive, apologizing*