



We have a need for **STRONG MEN**
to **LEAD AND PROTECT** our families.

The Spiritual Battle for Our Boys

Dr. Vermelle Greene



Remember the story of Moses? The Egyptian Pharaoh feared the growing number of Hebrews and ordered the slaughter of their newborn sons.

Did you ever wonder—if the population was too large, then why kill only the boys and spare the girls? I believe now that Pharaoh's demonically inspired motive was to eliminate the men, thereby creating a female-majority population that could be more easily dominated and controlled. This would compromise the strength of the entire Hebrew nation.

Moral Issues

The same devil operating in ancient Egypt is operating in modern-day America. As the enemy sees his end

approaching, he seemingly has unleashed every demon in hell to destroy families by focusing his attacks on our children, especially our sons.

Why? The answer rests with the need for strong men to lead and protect our families, the bedrock of society. What does the enemy want to accomplish by targeting our boys? Destroy the boys and abort the men they would become.

We have seen this happening before our eyes. Too many of our boys and young men are failing in school and in life, often uneducated and without marketable skills. The situation is dire, especially for our black and brown boys.

While once ignored, this escalating tragedy has caused several authors to sound the alarm: *Boy Crisis* (Dr. Warren Farrell), *War Against Boys* (Dr. Christina Hoff Sommers), *Boys Adrift* (Dr. Leonard Sax), and *Of Boys and Men: Why the Modern Male Is Struggling* (Richard Reeves), to name a few.

Academic Issues

Educational data consistently show that boys are falling behind their female peers. Boys and young men are at the top of every negative metric (suspensions/expulsions, retentions, and dropout rates) and the bottom of every positive metric (graduation rates, test scores, and college attendance).

These youngsters sometimes struggle within an educational system that does not understand how their male brains and bodies affect learning and behavior. Instructional programs tend to be girl-friendly, with curricula delivered primarily by women who teach the way they themselves learn. This approach connects with the girls—but not as much with the boys.

Parents who have witnessed the above can attest that such schools have failed to respond to their sons' academic needs. Consequently, moms and dads who are able, have chosen other options, including home instruction.

Difference in Learning Between Boys and Girls

Still, the foundational principle is the same in the school classroom or a homeschool environment: boys learn differently than girls. When God shaped Adam and Eve with different bodies, He also made their male and female brains different.

For instance, the structure of the male brain favors spatial and mechanical processing. However, their language processing, which affects reading, writing, and speech, is limited to only one hemisphere of the brain. Conversely, in the female brain, language is processed in both hemispheres, so she has more mental resources to develop those skills.

Teachers have frequently noticed that their male students were usually better at higher-level math skills (e.g., algebra, trigonometry, calculus) due to their brains' spatial processing. On the other hand, female students usually performed better in reading and writing due to their brains' increased resources for language processing.

Of course, there are exceptions. But exceptions do not deny the rule.

Understanding that boys learn differently than girls and should be taught differently is essential for all classroom teachers and those who wish to teach their children at home. The advantage of home instruction is the flexibility to incorporate strategies and choose methods to educate your son in the way he learns best. Note, too, that girls who learn like their brothers could also benefit.

We should embrace and support our sons' learning differences. Our boys are NOT defective girls who need to be medicated into submission to stifle their energy, calm them down, or make them more compliant. If your son is constantly fidgeting and tapping or repeatedly inattentive and unfocused, he may not be the one who needs an intervention.

Evaluate the Way You Teach

First, evaluate your instructional methods and teaching style. Seek God's wisdom for creative ideas for using movement to explain and inform. Perhaps switch or modify the curricula by infusing new strategies and activities that are more boy-friendly.

In the 1980s, when educators observed that boys outperformed girls in math, science, and college attendance, America began overhauling our entire educational system. There was a concerted effort to boost girls' achievement by rewriting math and science curricula, providing academic enrichment opportunities, creating supplemental resources, and modifying standardized testing. All was done with the ultimate objective of ensuring the continued success of our girls. ■

*Dr. Vermelle Greene has been an educator for more than fifty years, teaching kindergarteners through graduate students. She founded S.A.C.R.E.D. Life Academy for Boys, a K-8 Christian school focused on building character and accommodating the educational needs of boys. She is a passionate advocate for male student achievement and led the Maryland' State Board of Education's initiative to improve academic equity and excellence for Black boys. She and her husband, Vernon, have two married children and six grandchildren. Her website is sacredboys.com, and her latest book, *Please Teach Me Like I'm a Boy*, is available on Amazon.com.*