1) Background Information:

What is your:

1. Name?

a. Kirsten Mosher

2. Age?

a. 43

3. Education level?

a. BS

4. Current profession?

a. Independent Contractor (marketing services)

5. Marital status?

a. Married

6. Race/Ethnicity?

a. White

7. Hometown/where were you born?

a. Huntington, NY

8. Political affiliation?

a. Republican (not active)

9. Religion? (Or, would you consider yourself a religious/spiritual person?)

a. Denomination affiliation: Methodist

b. I am a highly spiritual individual. I celebrate my beliefs through my denomination.

10. Relationship to me (the interviewer)?

a. Family friend, member of church

11. Do you have children? Yes

a. How many? 2

b. What ages/genders?

 i. 12 (daughter)

 ii. 6 (daughter)

12. In what format did the interview take place? (face-to-face, phone, or email)

a. Email

Questions about Feminism:

1. What do you know about feminism?

a. It has been instrumental in the evolution of women’s roles in today’s society.

2. Do you consider yourself a feminist? Not sure.

a. Why or why not?

 i. I believe in equality for all. It has never occurred to me anything less is acceptable.

 ii. I was raised in a home that put self-sufficiency at the forefront. As children we were all (sons and daughters) taught basic life skills not gender specific tasks.

3. If you wouldn’t call yourself a feminist, is there another term that better describes you?

a.

4. Do you think being a feminist means giving up romance and chivalry?

a. NO!

 i. I celebrate the difference in men and women both physical and emotional.

 ii. Love knows no gender. Treating your mate with respect and kindness is a two way street.

5. In your opinion, what has been the greatest obstacle that the feminist movement has overcome?

a. The continued battle for equal pay and rights in the work place. I have battled this throughout my working life.

b. Battling small minds that believe stereotypes.

6. Has the feminist movement hurt women or men in any way? Please explain.

a. Unfair stereotyping of feminists based upon a few racial feminists.

b. My perception (I say this since I have no firsthand knowledge):

 i. Heavy gender bias in divorce courts and child custody cases is a real incentive for men to avoid marriage. ii. Domestic violence laws are such that a woman can accuse her significant other of something and have her word taken as ‘gospel’. iii. Conversely, it is hard for a man to prove abuse from female.7. What would equality for men and women entail?

a. Equal opportunities, responsibilities and rights.

 i. Removal of legal discrimination as well as stereotypes.

 ii. Providing more choices

 iii. An acceptance of actual differences rather than perceived

8. Can men and women ever achieve true equality? How so or why not?

a. Not sure

Questions about Work and Family:

9. How does society view housewives?

a. General view is low value. Low contributors to society.

10. If you had or have the option of being a housewife, would you consider it?

a. Yes, I have been a stay at home/work from home Mom for 12yrs. I do work from home but spend the day with my children.

11. Why or why not?

a. My husband and I chose to have me home with the children based upon several factors:

 i. Personal belief in value of stay-at-home parenting.

 ii. Willingness to go ‘without’ many perks of a two-income family.

12. When you were growing up, did a specific person in your household make the majority of the decisions or otherwise run the household?

a. Yes. Despite the fact that both had successful careers my mother made most daily decisions since my father’s jobs had him traveling frequently.

13. Do you think the person’s gender influenced when or what types of decisions she or he made?

a. Yes, think mother was primary on child issues and father finance.

14. Do you think women in male-dominated professions must diminish their feminine traits in order to gain respect from their peers? Please explain.

a. No. I think the perception of the traits is what is out of focus. Drive, direction, passion and courage are traits of leadership, not gender. If we continue to only equate them with males then we must say yes, women need to act more ‘manly’ to gain respect.

15. Now that the United States has elected a Black male president, do you think the country will elect a female president in the near future? Please explain.

a. Not so sure.

b. I would like to believe we are getting closer.

16. What would you consider to be the most challenging aspect of being a female?

a. Overcoming the stereotypes that we have to ooze ‘masculine energy’ to succeed.

I love being a woman. I embrace my roles in life. I love being a wife, mother, sister, daughter, worker and volunteer. Each role I have encompasses different layers of me. I love my femininity and the way it separates me from my husband.

17. Do you think males share this struggle?

a. Absolutely! Men are ‘expected’ to play a certain role too.

18. What advice do you have for young people today?

a. Make your choices in life based upon your desires and dreams. Don’t let society define your role and future. Whether you as a woman/man decide to have children and stay at home or follow your career ambitions; embrace your decision.

I spent eight years defending a decision to stay home with my children to people who had no investment in my happiness. My self-esteem took an unnecessary beating because I let others perceptions and views of my choice dictate my happiness. I judged myself based upon a false sense of inadequacy. I look at my children today and know that I made the right decision for me and my family. This choice is not for everyone but the right to make it is.

No one can determine your happiness and satisfaction in life; it begins and ends with you.