

Title: *A Christmas Carol* and Patriarchal Bias

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A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens normalizes oppressive ideologies for future generations to follow. Patriarchal familial structure pervades throughout the novella as it attempts to define what a loving family is supposed to be like. This archaic system is flawed to its core. Not only is it designed to give power to some and take power away from others, it simultaneously alienates those that do not conform to the framework. Patriarchal family structure normalizes a bias that romantic relationships are between a man and a woman. It blends and confines one of a human beings most important qualities, love, to a strict set of gender roles. Normalization of relationships and emotions such as love between opposite sexes disassociates homosexuals and people with fluid gender identities. Patriarchal family structure also frames human beings to specific gender roles. The female gender is stripped of individuality and power while the male gender must conform to specific characteristics set by society in order to take on the role as head of household. In the novella, women are reduced to commodities whose only purpose is to be objectified by their looks or to normalize that a loving family must have a woman in a domestic role. Future generations internalize that these concepts are normal and therefore perpetuate gender bias without a second thought. Objectification based on gender reduces some human beings as being seen as less than human. Patriarchal societal system is a regressive ideology that ensnares all aspects of societies to this day.

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