

## Group 2

### Mrs. Ednah D. Cheney: *The Reign of Womanhood*

1. How does Cheney view the traditional view of the Trinity? (pg 224) Does she describe a new one?
2. What do you make of the notion of a woman being put on a pedestal and the ideal of woman being so pure? Cheney states that women too often follow the “fancied duty” or a “romantic virtue.” Instead, she argues, women should use their “God-given faculty” (pg 230). Are women still put on a pedestal today?
3. Cheney mentions how men have this “lofty ideal” of women, but then states that Queen Victoria “is a typical woman, clear in her perceptions of right, entire in her devotion to duty, loving and tender in her heart, holy and pure in her life” (pg 234). Is Cheney subscribing to this “lofty ideal” of women as well?
4. Cheney argues that “true manhood and true womanhood are ever appearing in various forms, for the two are one” (pg 231). Can a woman be separate from a man and still be “whole”? Does a woman need a husband and child to define her?
5. Is Cheney actually making a case for equality among men and women? Would she support single, working women?
6. Cheney makes frequent mentions of the “eternally womanly...leading us on” (pg 233). She also states that England under the leadership of Queen Victoria and “under the leading of the every womanly...has gone upward and onward” (pg 235). Knowing what we do of English history during the reign of Victoria, would you agree with this statement?
7. Cheney states that a woman’s “ideal of man must match her own standard of spiritual purity and truth, or instead of leading him on she is dragged down to the dust with him” (pg 227). How do you think Cheney would define the “ideal man”?
8. Is there sex in souls? (pg 231) Do the ideas of masculinity and femininity mold together as one reaches a higher spiritual consciousness?
9. What are your opinions when Cheney talks about men losing their moral truth? (pg 233) Is evolution being held back by men?
10. Cheney makes a distinction between man’s strength and woman’s love (pg 236). Is this problematic? Is love necessarily “feminine”? Can you even define what is “masculine” as opposed to what is “feminine”?