

The background of the slide is a detailed engraving of a large public gathering. In the foreground, a dense crowd of people is seated on the ground, many with their hands raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. Some individuals are looking towards the center, while others are engaged in conversation. In the middle ground, a few people are standing, and one figure in the center appears to be addressing the crowd. The background shows a large, open space with more people and some architectural elements like columns, suggesting an outdoor public square or a large hall. The overall scene conveys a sense of a significant, organized event, likely a religious revival or a political rally.

Revivalism, Reform, and Artistic Renaissance, 1820-1850

Chapter 10



The Cult of True Womanhood, Reform, and Women's Rights

Chapter 10.3

“The Cult of True Womanhood” and the New Domesticity

- Women were leaders of the reform movements of the early 19th century.
 - Religious revivalism had a strong impact amongst women.
 - Market revolution created a growing middle class that allowed women more opportunities to become involved in political movements and created new ideas about the family and gender roles.
- The “Cult of True Womanhood” placed the domestic sphere within women’s domain.
 - Women embraced the moral, pious stereotype and used it to advocate for a political voice for themselves.
 - Women sought reforms they felt threatened the domestic realm: prostitution, alcoholism, crime, illiteracy, and slavery
 - The abolitionist galvanized women’s rights activists who began to challenge the political, legal, and social values that oppressed women.

THE
CONSTANT.



Questions:

- What was the cult of true womanhood? How did this ideal fit into the new notion of domesticity?
- Which reform movements attracted antebellum women?