

# [How has gender inequality impacted contemporary catholicism?](https://assignbuster.com/how-has-gender-inequality-impacted-contemporary-catholicism/)

Equality for women in our culture has been a contentious problem for centuries, with many debates, protests, demonstrations and movements to raise women out of male servitude. Many may refer to the understanding that females are the lower, more vulnerable, and weaker of both sexes as a reason for masculine domination. Many groups have been dominated by another group in history, but none with such complicity from those who claim to follow God’s Word as males over females in the Catholic Church. The Bible, perhaps the most influential collection of Scriptures, seems to align man with God; Then God said, “ Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let him have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground” (Genesis). Does this passage from the Old Testament establish men as the rulers of all that lives and breathes on the Earth, or is the term “ man” used to make human beings (males and females) as master of our planet? Some religions are believed to be more sexist than others, but there are also religions that do not share the same ideas, such as Christianity, where attitudes towards these kinds of problems can alter from denomination to denomination. Whereas in Paganism (discussed later) there is no significant source of spiritual learning, such as the Bible, is it right to conclude that these kinds of religions have more liberal opinions because there is nothing against them?

In the Christian religion, the Roman Catholic tradition can be seen to be the most intense when it gets to sexism. Catholicism, the first aspect of Christianity to be acknowledged, was the start of the first Christian teachings that did not appear in the Bible. Thus, these first laws originated in Roman law, which became the basis of the Church’s legislation and gave women little place in the culture. It is therefore the opinion of some that many of the rules of the Catholic Church have not been adjusted to the culture of today. Some individuals therefore believe that many of the laws of the Catholic Church are not adapted to today’s culture. Women are still haven’t been allowed to be priests, given the reality that there are many instances in the Bible of Jesus teaching individuals through parables and other means. However, there are Catholics who believe in the authority of the Pope but are persuaded that the Pope and his advisers in Rome are making a severe error by rejecting females as priests. Evidence shows that there were a few heretical sects in life that permitted females to be priests, as well as texts published by numerous saints that do not reject the concept of female ordination. It does not seem that the Vatican will alter its mind on this topic any time quickly, so this is a valid example of a religion maintaining a sexist attitude even when there is opposition.

Fortunately the same view does not apply to all the Christian denominations. In 1992 the General Synod stated that it would give women the right to be priests, and shortly afterwards the first women’s ordainment took place in the Anglican Church. This is not to mention, however, that Christianity resisted female ordination until the 1990s, because many of the lesser denominations, such as the Baptist or Methodist churches, had females priests many years earlier. Douglas gives the example of ‘ the first woman ever to ordained by the Congregational Church in New York in 1853, at the age of twenty-eight.’. So some denominations have been more equal than others when it comes to sexism.

Paganism is often seen as a very fair religion, Paganism recognizes males and females as equals, (Jones,) and there are no gender issues such as the concept of female ordination. The foundation of Christianity is patriarchal, and God is a father figure, and Jesus and his disciples are men, but in Paganism there is the conception of God and Goddess. But can Paganism really be considered as being equal when there are exclusions from certain groups? When individuals speak about sexism, the general idea that has been conjured up is one of the oppression of females, as has been the situation around the globe for millennia. Sexism toward males is less prevalent, but it does exist. In the 1970s, ‘ Dianic Wicca started: a woman-only variant that took away with God or any masculine aspect,’ (Jeffrey) this is a part of Paganism that could be seen to exclude potential sex-based members. However, there are also all-male groups were slower in arising in Paganism than women’s groups, but they have developed with the growth of the men’s movement as feminism which has led men to question their own position in culture, (Jeffrey) It could be said that all of these groups are gender-based, but then it does matter, because there are groups for both sexes, so no one is excluded.

Paganism does not have a sacred text like the Bible to take their religious teaching from, so it is understood that how we govern our lives is up to us (Jones,). Paganism therefore is not sexist but it does put an emphasis on the importance of the sexes. Paganism does not have a sacred scripture like the Bible to take away from their spiritual practice, so it is recognized that how we control our life is up to us (Jones,). Paganism is therefore not gender-based, but it emphasizes the significance of both sexes. Men still have a significant role in Paganism, but because of the reality that females have been oppressed, some Pagan females think that it is essential to move back from the patriarchal,’ a craft coven feminist focuses on discovering the magical self out of the core of the less-bound ego (Greenwood). This is not discrimination, it is only women who want to find their own place in a religious institution. No matter how the sexes are handled, some individuals think that sexism is deeply imbedded in religion. In Christianity, it is believed that God is both sexes as well as being neither sex, but’ exclusive use of male terms has nevertheless resulted in a literal and idolatrous perception of the male God (Crowley). Whereas in Paganism the words Gods and Goddesses are used, and no one sees it gender-based, according to Ruether, one requires God’s inclusive language that builds on the images and experiences of both sexes (O’Neill). Both the Old and New Testaments involve many references to God being the Father and He is always used, which sometimes leaves individuals of both genders feeling that this is sexist. Old versions of the Bible also involve many references to mankind, which are now being published as’ humankind’ in some of the later versions.

ABS Census data – 30% of Australians state that they are of no religion. Show how sexism in the Catholic Church and other religions has contributed to the decline in religious adherence and an increase in no-religion.

There were contrasts in how men and women and ages experienced sexism. Women were bound to have been contrarily affected by their sexual orientation in their work and professions and to accept that they had less access to vocation openings than men. (ABS, 2017) Millennials were more probable than different ages to report having been adversely affected by their sexual orientation in their work or profession. The more seasoned Baby Boomer and Builder ages were less inclined to have had such encounters or are hesitant to report such encounters. (ABS, 2017) Despite this perception, Millennials were bound to accept that men and women have a similar access to vocation openings while Baby Boomers were more uncertain.

Twenty to thirty-year olds conceived somewhere in the range of 1982 and 2000, should be the age that makes up  what has been classified “ another national agreement” for sexual orientation equality. In reality, in February the unmistakable Columbia educator Jeffrey Sachs named the 2016 race, where an incredibly qualified female applicant lost to a man with a background marked by disregarding women, “ a blip” making a course for the populist society that will be accomplished once millennial voters dwarf their traditionalist older folks (Tim Enthoven, 2017).

The general public of Australia has been hazy of this, as there are huge gatherings of the populaces that supports sex equality and the others contradicting them. Over the a very long while Australia on a moderate advancement in arriving at balance between the two sexes. Australia was one of 47 states picked for a seat on the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) for a 2018-2020 term. It at present can include to worldwide advancement ladies’ privileges. Truly, one of the five “ segments” of Australia’s offered for a HRC seat was sexual orientation equality. Outside Minister Marise Payne starting late rehashed Australia’s promise to these sections in her talk to the HRC. In 2018, sexual orientation consistency was the steadiest subject of Australia’s announcements before the committee. Australia propelled sexual orientation equality through enunciations on mercilessness against ladies, female genital mutilation, exploitation ladies and ladies’ privileges.

In late decades, women in Australia have made huge steps towards equality with men. At colleges, in work environments, in meeting rooms and in government, a developing number of women have taken on influential positions, manufacturing pathways for other women and young ladies to pursue. In 1984, the Sex Discrimination Act came into power, sex segregation and lewd behavior crosswise over different pieces of open life illegal. The Act, which offers impact to Australia’s universal human rights commitments, has assumed a significant job in changing network frames of mind and helping advance sex equality in this nation. Regardless of this advancement, women and young ladies keep on encountering inequality and segregation in numerous significant pieces of their lives, which can restrict the decisions and openings accessible to them.

Equality for women in our way of life has been an argumentative issue for quite a long time, with numerous discussions, dissents, exhibits and developments to raise women out of male bondage. Many may allude to the understanding that females are the lower, increasingly helpless, and more fragile of both genders as an explanation behind manly control.  In the Christian religion, the Roman Catholic tradition can be believed to be the most extreme when it gets to sexism. Catholicism, the main part of Christianity to be recognized, was the beginning of the primary Christian lessons that did not show up in the Bible. Sexism and patriarchy need to be replaced with equity and equality if the Catholic Church wants to have a future in a modern world. In order to reach equilibrium between the two genders, the traditional laws of the catholic church must adapt to the current era so that both genders to have an equal voice and value.

Bibliography

* Klingorová, K. (2015). Religion and gender inequality: The status of women in the societies of world religions. [online] Available at: https://www. researchgate. net/publication/279526649\_Religion\_and\_gender\_inequality\_The\_status\_of\_women\_in\_the\_societies\_of\_world\_religions [Accessed 14 Aug. 2019].
* News. bbc. co. uk. (2018). BBC ON THIS DAY | 11 | 1992: Church of England votes for women priests. [online] Available at: http://news. bbc. co. uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/november/11/newsid\_2518000/2518183. stm [Accessed 14 Aug. 2019].
* Prudence Jones, . ‘ What is Paganism . [Online] Available at: http://www. geocities. com/little-pagan-gurl/What\_Is\_Pagansim. html [Accessed 14 Aug. 2019].

Jeffrey, (2003). The Goddess Reborn . [Online] Available at: http://www. geocities. com/spiritotearth/Goddess. html [Accessed 14 Aug. 2019].

* Patheos (2019). Gender and Sexuality . [Online] Available at: https://www. patheos. com/library/pagan/ethics-morality-community/gender-and-sexuality [Accessed 17 Aug. 2019].
* Jr., W. and Jr., A. (2019). Pope v. Paganism | William Doino Jr . [Online] First Things. Available at: https://www. firstthings. com/web-exclusives/2015/05/pope-v-paganism [Accessed 17 Aug. 2019].

Douglas, K. Sexuality and the BlackChurch, Maryknoll, Orbis Books. Accessed on 17/8/2019

Greenwood, S. ‘ The Magical Will, Gender and Power. The New Penguin   
Handbook of Living Religions. Accessed on 17/8/2019

* Virginia Haussegger, P. (2018). From girls to men: Social attitudes to gender equality in Australia. [Online]. Available at: http://www. broadagenda. com. au/home/from-girls-to-men-social-attitudes-to-gender-equality-in-australia/ [Accessed 10 Sep. 2019].
* 5050foundation. edu. au. (2019). [Online] Available at: http://www. 5050foundation. edu. au/assets/reports/documents/From-Girls-to-Men. pdf [Accessed 10 Sep. 2019].
* Worldvision. com. au. (2019). Gender Equality | World Vision Australia . [Online] Available at: https://www. worldvision. com. au/global-issues/work-we-do/gender [Accessed 10 Sep. 2019].