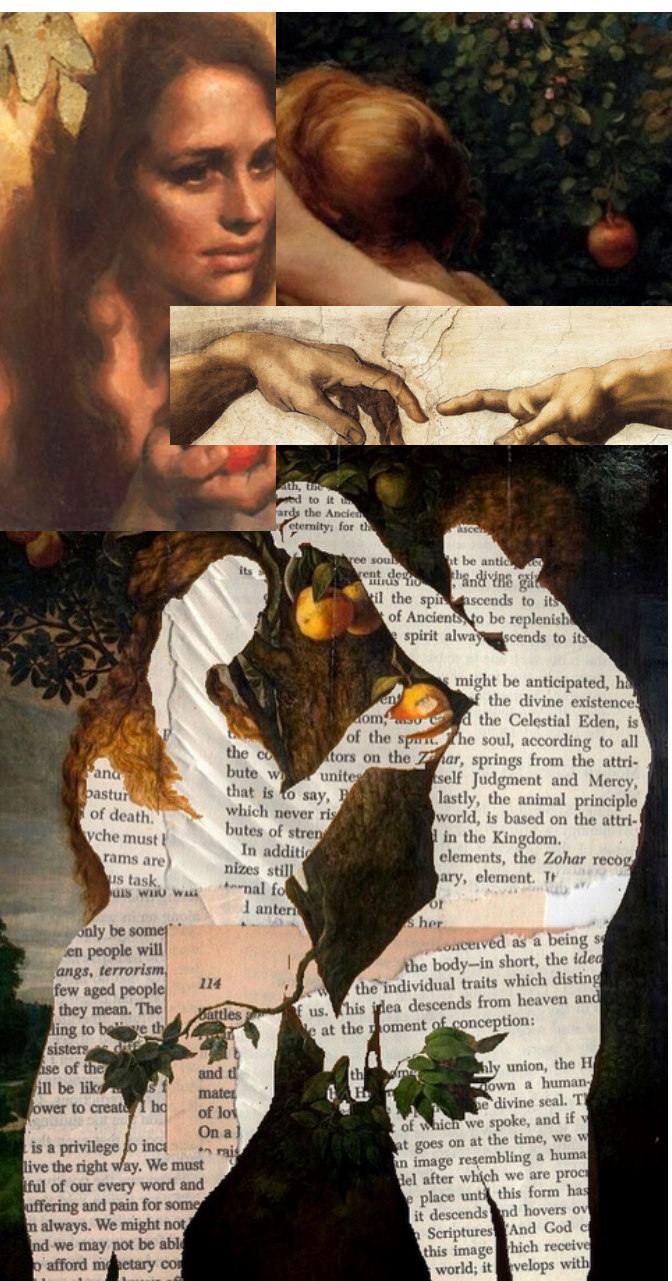


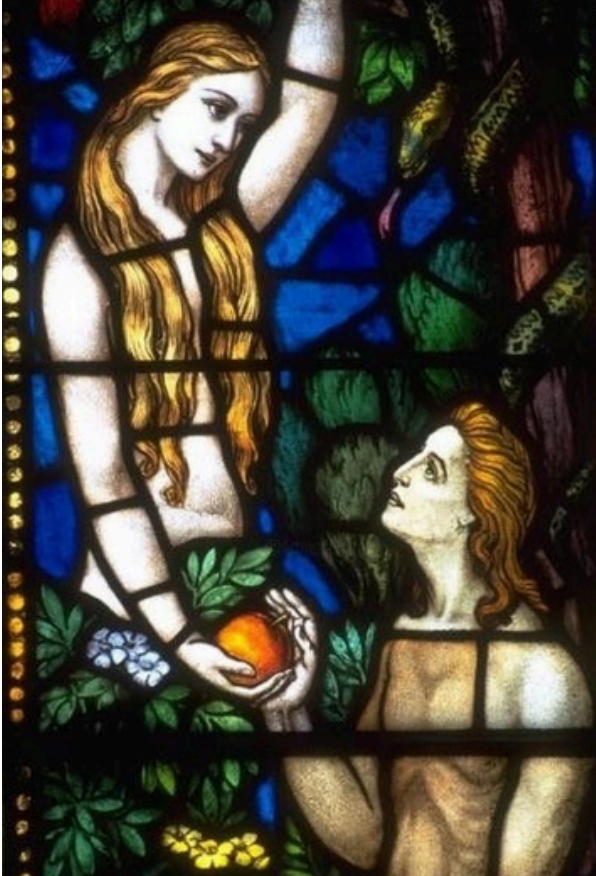


Painted in the Sistine Chapel are two paintings, the Creation of Adam and the Creation of Eve, both of which were painted by Michaelangelo. There is a clear distinction between how their relationships with God are presented. The Creation of Adam presents God reaching out to Adam, desiring a relationship and Adam is the one to lower his hand, not quite connecting. Whereas the Creation of Eve presents Eve reaching out and pleading for God and it appears as though God is disinterested, and turning her away. It is a common idea found inside and outside of the Bible that woman is made in the image of man, and not in the image of God, for example in 1 Corinthians 11:7. This idea is based off of the second creation account in Genesis 2:4b-3:24- the Yahwistic account. Yet, the Priestly account found in Genesis 1:1-2:4a says that humankind (no specified gender) is made in the image of God).

Misogyny and the Adam and Eve Narrative

However, some authorities within the Church took this to a more extreme belief, suggesting that woman are only suitable for reproducing. Such as St Augustine of Hippo, who said “Why did God create woman? She is of no use to the man when it comes to physical labour and her only role is to conceive and bear children”. This idea to a lesser extent can also be found in 1 Timothy 2:15 which says, regarding women, “yet she will be saved through childbearing provided they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

Woman are seen as the helper of the men. Eve was created to be Adam’s helper. But the Hebrew word gives so much more than the English word and provides much more power for Eve. Eve was not intended to be a handmaiden, only useful for child bearing. She was made as Adam’s equal in the first of the creation accounts.



Eve as a scapegoat for the fall:

“And Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor”. 1 Timothy 2:13-14
The Adam and Eve narrative shows the fall of humanity, the beginning of separation from God. For centuries, the blame has fell entirely on women. Art often portrays Eve as having seduced Adam into eating from the forbidden tree, yet there is no biblical foundation for this. As the narrative in Genesis simply says “and she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.” As a result of this, woman was cursed to be ruled by her husband and have exceedingly painful labour. The curse of being ruled by her husband and Eve being tempted has led to the belief that women are the weaker sex, such as stated in 1 Peter 3:7.

