

Genesis is the first book of the Christian Bible, and it provides several stories of how God created all things, woefully how humanity fell into sin also. Specifically, Genesis chapter two is the narrative of Adam and Eve's creation, and Genesis chapter three is the fall of humanity into sin. Seemingly, the narratives in these chapters enable feelings of frustration in, supposedly, most feminists as they feel the narrative is misogynistic. Therefore, the aim of this essay is to examine the statement, 'the narrative of Adam and Eve in Genesis is a perfect example of misogyny.' Both unanimous and opposing views for this statement will be provided and a brief comparative study of scripture will be made to conclude the Bible's view. The conclusion made will be from no bias of one's own feelings, but entirely on what the Bible states. To clarify, the main body of this essay will provide both opposing and unanimous arguments for this statement, then a comparative study of scripture will be made to conclude what the Bible deems correct and incorrect. The summary will consist of a concise statement of the Bible's view on the statement in question, alongside scriptures which may seem to oppose the concluded view of the Bible as to make way for potential research in the future.

A view adjoined with the statement in question is "the Bible is largely a 'man's book,'" as spoken by Elizabeth Stanton in 1895 after having rewritten the Bible and named it the "woman's bible"¹. It is said that the "woman's bible" contained "a reinterpretation of the story of Eve and Adam that directly challenged the traditional reading"². This view is a result of a common feminist view of the Bible being sexist. Additionally, some add to this view saying "women are

¹Pamela Milne, *GENESIS FROM EVE'S POINT OF VIEW*. (WashingtonPost.com, 1989).

² Ibid.

portrayed as weak and easy to manipulate with Eve succumbing to the temptations of the serpent to eat the fruit” due to the Adam and Eve narrative in Genesis, thus claiming the Bible is anti-women³. Essentially, this encapsulates what the statement is probing at, that the Adam and Eve narrative portrays much woman hating, this will be discussed further on in the essay.

A view opposing the statement in question is that "Saying the Bible is misogynistic is the same thing as saying that Jesus-God is misogynistic, that is, if you believe that the Bible is the Word of God"⁴. As well as believing those agreeing with the statement in question are calling God a misogynist, they are decimating the nature of God due to their interpretation. Although God's nature is love, explaining why the Holy Trinity exists (this will be discussed further in another essay), those believing, knowingly or unknowingly, that God is a misogynist have taken away His nature because love does not care about whether one is a male or female⁵. Furthermore, before God cares for His nature, He cares for His Word first which results in His honorable name⁶. This is important to note as His name being blasphemed through being called a misogynist is against God's way as well as His loving nature being distorted through this statement in question alone.

With the arguments provided, the brief comparative study of the Bible shall commence once all notes are provided. Firstly, it is important to note that the Bible states it is written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit through willing vessels (2 Timothy 3:16). Secondly, note that the

³ Blair Parke, *Is the Bible Anti-Women?* (Biblestudytoold.com, 2023).

⁴ Hershel Shanks, *First Person: Misogyny in the Bible*. (Biblearcheology.org, 2022).

⁵ Robert Sproul, *God's Love: How the Infinite God Cares for His Children*. (Orlando: Fla, 2012).

⁶ Kevin DeYoung, *Taking God at His Word*. (Madison: Wisconsin, 2014).

misogyny displayed in the Bible is carried out by the people who are sinning (Judges 20:5).

Thirdly, the literal definition for the word misogyny is 'woman hating' as 'misos' means hate in Greek and 'gune' means woman in Greek⁷. Fourthly, to examine the statement in question, the Word of God states that "one's life reflects the heart" (Proverbs 27:19B), this means the statement in question reveals the heart placements of the ones agreeing with the statement or opposing it. Bearing all of this in mind as this essay comparatively studies the Word of God to come to a biblically sound conclusion.

The Bible is 'God-breathed' and is written through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16). It is essential to remind ourselves of this as we make any statement or come to any conclusion regarding the Word God. To lack prudence regarding this can lead to serious sins, for example, blasphemy. To claim the writers or narrative itself is a misogynistic one is to claim God is a misogynist. To deepen one's understanding of this point an example will follow; a person wishes to send a note through another person to another person. The first person writes the note, the second one carries it over to the last person, the last person receives the message. It would prove lacking in sense for the one receiving the note to blame the messenger instead of the one who wrote the note. Therefore, to blame the messengers God has used proves lacking in sense.

Therefore, to prove senseful, one would need to claim God is misogynistic for the claim to be accurately deposited. However, throughout scripture it is revealed to the reader that God's

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Kalpana Srivastava, *Misogyny, feminism, and sexual harassment*. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>, 2017).

nature is love. The Bible teaches the reader that true love is unconditional love, it does not condone one's sin, but loves the individual unconditionally (1 John 4:7-12). For God's nature to be unconditional love, yet misogynistic is contradicting, thus incompatible. For God's nature to be irreverence as to be called misogynistic is classified as blasphemy, according to the Bible.

For the nature of God to be blasphemed, His name and Word is also. This is proven incompatible with God's nature as He highly esteems His Word above Himself. Proverb 22:1 states, "A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold". This reminds us that an honorable man can be trusted by the testimony of others, which in turn results in him having an honorable name. Whatever God has taught us through His Word He has also done Himself and carried out flawlessly. Therefore, alongside God's perfect ways as shown in Deuteronomy 32:4, God's name is honorable as He has remained honorable in Word and deed.

Therefore, the blasphemy of God's name, nature, Words and deeds reveals the heart placement of the ones who agree with the statement in question as living in the flesh and 'cherry-picking' Bible verses to suit one's own ideologies or ideologies of the world. Fruits proven to be lacking by these individuals are faithfulness and self-control (Galatians 5:16-17). These fruits are evidently lacking as they have chosen to follow the world's ideologies and their own ideologies instead of crucifying their flesh according to Galatians 5:24-26 which states all Christians are to do this. Walking in the flesh is against the Word of God as Romans 12:2 clearly states. 'Cherry-picking' Bible verses is not only dangerous to the individual's themselves, but to the believers and unbelievers of Christ around them as it leads to misinformation and consequently blaspheming the name and nature of God, at the least.

Lastly, the statement under examination is made incapacitated and irrelevant through this brief comparative Bible study. This is done through 1 Timothy 2:14 stating "And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner" (NIV). Adam had been assigned his role by God to lead, provide and protect his wife, Eve. However, Adam failed at this and allowed his desire to please and impress his wife and to taste the forbidden fruit to override him. This is not saying Eve is hated by God, nor should she be hated by anyone else, but it is saying there was a role reversal in the creation of God. Just as the Son submits to the Father, so the wife is called to submit to her husband, all remaining equal in worth, but different in roles and capabilities. This provides a suitable example of how roles being changed to oppose God's design leads to sin, death and disobedience to God. Neither Adam nor Eve is to be hated, but we are to learn from their mistake in our own personal hierarchical systems God has wonderfully created for us, while we all remain equal in worth to one another.

To conclude, this statement is proven inaccurate and incapacitated when studied comparatively with the Bible without bias. This statement is proven blasphemous to God. This statement has and will continue to be proven harmful to people's faith due to misinformation leading to blasphemy against God. This statement also has led to a deeper understanding of God's creation of hierarchical systems to demonstrate the Holy Trinity through our ways of living with one another. Additionally, yet separately, a study on why the Holy Trinity exists because of God's nature being love is a future prospect to be a follow-up of this study. This future study will remain biblically sound with much biblical evidence to support this claim and avoiding any biases.

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