Is Eve the victim of misogyny?

'No biblical character has been more misunderstood or more maligned than the woman of the Garden'.

(Trevor Dennis, Sarah Laughed, page 8)

Timothy 2:11-13: 'Let a woman learn in silence with full submission. I permit no woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she is to keep silent. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived, and became a transgressor.'

Genesis 3:20: 'And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.'

Fig 1. God admonishing Adam and Eve

FOR

- Created after Adam - implies women are less important than men as she is an afterthought
- Often depicted as a temptress, seduces Adam into eating the 'forbidden fruit', displeasing God and being banished from the Paradise of Eden
- Art & Literature relating to Eve contain imagery of a serpent and apple – symbol of her transgression
- Sexually objectified - images usually portraying a naked woman in seductive poses with her breasts on display

AGAINST

- She was created to assist Adam, as no other life on Earth was suitable for him – she was needed
- The name Eve translates to 'life' or 'life giver', and she is responsible for the procreation of all humans – without Eve there would be no life
- Whilst Eve is blamed for tempting Adam, he too is punished for his role in the forbidden fruit story
- Adam is also objectified sexually in Art and Literature, sometimes with his genitals on display

Fig 2. Adam and Eve

In the image above it appears that Adam is placing blame on a worried looking Eve. God is above them, seemingly pointing a finger angrily. There are also Angels surrounding the couple, looking on in dismay. This gives the impression that Adam is attempting to shift blame and appease God.

This image is a conntrast to the other. Both Eve and Adam are holding the apple together, and Adam certainly doesn't seem like he is being made to participate in the eating of the forbidden fruit. This image implies that Adam is equally to blame, and is a willing participant.