

Syllabus

Unit 4D: Sexism in the (Catholic) Church

Unit/ Module	Topic	Assignment	Optional Advanced Readings
4D	Sexism in the (Catholic) Church	Johnson, 2017; Talbot, 2021; Teng, 2017	Glick et al., 2002; Homan & Burdette, 2021; Jost et al., 2014

Reading Quiz

1. What is one of the ways Johnson explains that sexism appears in theological tradition and how it appears?

Sample answer: Johnson points to the example of androcentrism, meaning the view of men as normative, in theological tradition. This manifests itself in the way that many people automatically believe God, the Creator, to have a gender identity that is masculine. The masculine attribution of God comes from the male identity of Jesus and his calling of God as ‘Father’, but God exists outside of a physical body to be gendered.

2. How did Teng point to the life and ministry of Jesus as being resistant towards forms of oppression and leading to her proclamation of being a feminist?

Sample answer: Teng mentions that her identification as a feminist comes from the ways she sees Jesus’ outreach and uplifting of women. In one example, she mentioned a biblical text that talks about how Jesus taught women in his ministry in the same room as the men.

3. What are some of the reasons that the American Catholic Church is experiencing a ‘lapse’ of women from the Church?

Sample answer: Though, historically, women have been the backbone of the Catholic Church in numbers, many are leaving. This comes as a strong upholding of the Church’s teachings that

include disapproval of contraceptives, sexuality as a sin, children being born out of wedlock, and, even, women not being allowed into priesthood.

References

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