



# **HOT POTATO #4:** ***Can Women Lead The Church?***

**Should women lead the church? Church tradition has said "no", and it has given many reasons why. But what does the Bible say?**

Every woman should be filled with shame by the thought that she is a woman.

*~ Clement of Alexandria, Second Century*

And do you not know that you are an Eve? The sentence of God on this sex of yours lives in this age: the guilt must of necessity live too. *You* are the devil's gateway: *you* are the unsealer of that tree: *you* are the first deserter of the divine law: *you* are she who persuaded him whom the devil was not valiant enough to attack. *You* destroyed so easily God's image, man. On account of your desert – that is, death – even the Son of God had to die.

*~ Tertullian, Second Century*

The female sex is easily mistaken, fallible, and poor in intelligence.

*~ Epiphanius (365-403 CE)*

Because the female sex is more concerned with things of the flesh than men; because being formed from a man's rib, they are only imperfect animals and crooked whereas man belongs to a privileged sex from whose midst Christ emerged.

*~ Malleus Maleficarum ("The Hammer of Witches"), 1486*

Girls begin to talk and to stand on their feet sooner than boys because weeds always grow up more quickly than good crops.

*~ Martin Luther, 1533*

Praise be to God that he has not created me a Gentile.  
Praise be to God that he has not created me a woman.  
Praise be to God that he has not created me an ignorant man.

*~ Jewish Rabbinical Prayer*

In the beginning God made male and female. He made Adam first, and then he made Eve from Adam's rib. This order of creation subordinates wives to their husbands and women to men in the church. As an act of submission to their Creator women are commanded to submit to their husbands and to male leadership in the church.

*~ Reformation Fellowship Church Statement of Faith*

To the degree that a woman's influence over man is personal and directive, it will generally offend a man's good, God-given sense of responsibility and leadership, and thus controvert God's created order.

*~ John Piper*

Feminism is not something that must be added to Christianity in order for the church to honour women. The gospel itself is pro-women.

*~ Sarah Sumner*

**There is no longer Jew or Gentle, slave or free, male or female. For you are all Christians – you are one in Christ Jesus.**

*~ Galatians 3:28 (NLT)*