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The hermeneutics of feminism

R. Letham

Dr. Letham is minister at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, Delaware, USA, and formerly taught at Westminster Theological Seminary and London Bible College.

The threefold classification of feminism that follows I have used elsewhere.¹ The first group, *evangelical feminism*, consists of those who hold to evangelical theology (such as the authority of Scripture and the sufficiency of Christ as saviour) and argue for a non-hierarchical relation of full equality and reciprocity between man and woman. Secondly, *Christian feminism* includes those feminists who, while not evangelical, still work self-consciously from a commitment to the Christian faith, however they understand it. Our main focus will be here. Finally, *religious feminism* consists of feminists who do not identify with Christianity but whose beliefs nevertheless include a religious worldview. Naturally, there is a wide spectrum of opinion within each of these groups. Due to limited space, we can only focus on a few representatives and highlight broad tendencies.

The most significant work in this field has been done by Christian feminists such as Rosemary Radford Ruether and Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza. Fiorenza, a Catholic biblical scholar, has developed feminist hermeneutical theory more rigorously than anyone else. Her book *In memory of her* (1983) is still the most important single contribution in the area. On the one hand, religious feminists such as Mary Daly and the witch Starhawk explicitly repudiate the Christian faith. Evangelical feminists, on the other hand, are clearly acting in response to pressures emanating from the broader movement.

Christian feminism

Advocacy stance

For feminists in general the arch villain is patriarchy, a social system ruled and determined by men, in which women are treated as secondary and so are defined purely in relation to the dominant male culture. The Western world is seen as thoroughly patriarchal due to the masterful influence of the Judaeo-Christian tradition. Fiorenza argues that the Bible and the history of theology are correspondingly marked by patriarchal bias. They are the products of the historical winners, written by men and reinforcing male prejudices. As such they are largely oppressive to women. Evidence of the prominent role of women in the earliest Christianity has been suppressed or marginalized. Because current biblical and theological scholarship is male-dominated it is incapable of seeing this oppressive situation and thereby correcting it. Only a feminist interpretative model can do justice to the historical reality of women's leadership in early Christianity and thus integrate those texts which are redemptive and liberative for women into the overall picture. Fiorenza proceeds to explore Christian origins as a liberation struggle for Christian women within the patriarchal structures of Greco-Roman society.²

Need for paradigm shift

Consequently, following Thomas S. Kuhn's theories, Fiorenza argues that a paradigm shift is necessary, transforming androcentric (purportedly neutral, value-free) scholarship into human (engaged) scholarship. Fiorenza recognizes correctly that all interpretation is to a degree biased by the perspectives of the interpreter. However, she wants to make a virtue out of a necessity

by a deliberate policy commitment to an advocacy stance, in this case one in favour of women. She argues that all theology is done with a bias either for or against the oppressed. Neutrality is impossible. The ideal of the value-free neutrality of historical-critical scholarship is a myth. An initial question to ask is how far will this enable or prevent the reality of the texts and situations disclosing themselves. How far is Fiorenza critical of her own presuppositions? She does not think that her advocacy stance precludes critical reflection on her feminist position. Indeed, she maintains that biblical and theological interpretation has always taken an advocacy position without realizing it. In most cases it has adopted a patriarchal advocacy structure.³

Authority and canon

Following from these initial suggestions, Fiorenza explicitly denies that the Bible is the revelatory canon for Christian feminism. After all, the Bible was written by men who lived in a strongly patriarchal culture, and who accepted and reinforced its norms. Elements of the Bible have in God's name perpetuated violence, alienation and patriarchal subordination. Therefore, these elements cannot be authoritative. It is women's struggle for liberation from patriarchal oppression that is the authority for women today. The locus of revelation is not the androcentric text but the life and ministry of Jesus and the movement called forth by him. Only those elements of the Bible that transcend patriarchy are of authority. A feminist theologian must question whether the historical man Jesus of Nazareth can be a model for contemporary women since feminist psychological liberation means freeing women from all male internalized norms and models.⁴

Thus, in Fiorenza's thinking it is the critical principles of the feminist movement that are of prime importance. Following her programme, the feminist will sit in judgment on the Bible. Whatever does not agree with her previously determined opinions will be rejected. As her fellow-feminist Lefty Russell puts it:

... it has become abundantly clear that the scriptures need liberation, not only from existing interpretations but also from the patriarchal bias of the texts themselves. The more we learn about feminist interpretation, the more we find ourselves asking, with Katherine Sakenfeld, 'How can feminists use the Bible, if at all?'⁵

Scripture, insofar as it is acceptable, becomes a rubber stamp for the autonomous feminist. As Margaret Farley argues, anything that contradicts feminist convictions cannot be accepted. No authentic revelation of truth can contradict feminist convictions. A divine imperative assigning inferior roles to women is ruled out.⁶ Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite is even more emphatic. Scripture lies behind rape and battering of women, for the seeds of these lie in the subordinate position Scripture assigns to women. The household codes of Ephesians and Colossians are therefore a primary legitimization of wife abuse! Feminists must challenge them. At issue in Genesis 2:21-24 is the control over women's bodies. In its conservative attachment to the patriarchal value system which Genesis 2 legitimizes, the right to life movement is an attack on female autonomy, deliberately aiming to restrict women's rights over their own bodies.⁷ For such feminists, the Bible is a source but not authoritative canon.

Gynocentrism

Since Scripture is perceived as seriously flawed in this way, what hermeneutical principles do Christian feminists regard as of prime importance? According to Rosemary Radford Ruether human experience is the starting point and end of the interpretative process. As such, Ruether accepts the basic development of post-Enlightenment thought with its anthropocentric worldview. However, this approval is only general and formal. Historically, women's experience has been ignored and it is precisely women's experience that throws the entire history of interpretation into question.⁶ For Ruether, the critical principle of feminist theology is the promotion of the full humanity of women:

Whatever denies, diminishes, or distorts the full humanity of women is, therefore, appraised as not redemptive. Theologically speaking, whatever diminishes or denies the full humanity of women must be presumed not to reflect the divine or an authentic relation to the divine, or to reflect the authentic nature of things, or to be the message or work of an authentic redeemer or a community of redemption.

This negative principle also implies the positive principle: what does promote the full humanity of women is of the Holy, it does reflect true relation to the divine. . . .⁷

Letty Russell poses the question: are Jewish and Christian feminists to be faithful to Scripture or to their own integrity? She clearly perceives the direction feminist theology is heading. She attempts a resolution of the problem. She recognizes that no interpretation that reinforces patriarchal structures of domination would be acceptable for feminist interpretation. The Bible is especially dangerous if we call it 'the Word of God' and think that everything we read is right. Instead the feminist paradigm is one of co-operation, partnership, community, a circle of interdependence in the shared story of God's love *rather than* doctrinal consensus. If the canon is deabsolutized it is no longer necessary to choose between Scripture and personal integrity!⁸ Russell has produced a superficially neat solution but only at the expense of cutting the cord that ties feminist theology to the historic Christian church. If the feminist paradigm abandons doctrinal consensus at the expense of co-operative partnership, what is left to identify the movement as Christian?

Hermeneutics of suspicion

In terms of the interpretation of the Bible and of Christian tradition, Fiorenza argues that a hermeneutics of suspicion is necessary, since the texts are seen as thoroughly androcentric. Feminists must learn to read them in such a way as to discern the clues they may indirectly provide to the egalitarian reality of the early Christian movement. The feminist critical method will not rely solely on historical facts nor will invent evidence but instead will engage in an imaginative reconstruction of historical reality. An act of intellectual recreation is necessary in historical reconstruction.⁹ Fiorenza is true to her word. Much of her writing is indeed highly imaginative reconstruction, particularly in her use of an alleged conflict between the apostle Peter and Mary Magdalene which Peter won, thereby sending the church into its hitherto incorrigible patriarchal captivity and consigning Mary Magdalene's prior apostleship to historical oblivion.¹²

Our historical structures, Fiorenza claims, define men as the scientific and historical subjects and make women secondary. The NT only refers to women where they were exceptional or had become a problem.¹³ Barbara Brown Zikmund is, if anything, blunter when she states that according to the NT 'Woman is simply less than man'.¹⁴ Nevertheless, according to Fiorenza there is still sufficient evidence to recognize the prominent role women played in the Jesus movement. While Paul, despite egalitarian leanings, was somewhat equivocal on the matter, only with the post-Pauline community was there a regression to the Greco-Roman patriarchal model.¹⁵

Positive attitude to paganism

It is not surprising that the Christian feminism we have described shows certain leanings towards neopaganism. Its basic hermeneutical orientation directs it that way. Since the primary theological and interpretative principle is women's experience, a religious worldview that gives the female priority is extremely attractive. As Barbara Brown Zikmund writes:

even for those who want to stay within the Jewish and Christian legacy, the work of neopagan or non-biblical feminist spirituality is important. Goddess religions have powerful symbols that stretch our understanding of religious practice and human experience.¹⁶

Contributors to the symposium edited by Carol P. Christ and Judith Plaskow, *Womanspirit Rising*, include not only Fiorenza, Ruether and Phyllis Trible but also the witches Starhawk and Zsuzsanna Budapest, while Christ herself contributes a final chapter that is nothing less than a laudatory tribute to Goddess worship. True, a common volume does not require a single worldview from its contributors. However, the willingness to support a common enterprise at least indicates that the relation between Christian feminism and the Goddess movement, with its pantheism and occult practices, is a continuum rather than a contrast.

This conclusion finds support from Ruether's comment that God is not a Christian or a Jew rather than a pagan (*Sexism*, p. 21). Christian heresies and pre-Christian pagan religions are at least equally as valid as historic Christianity. She argues that if Fiorenza's egalitarian vision of early Christianity is correct, then the official canonical framework of Christianity is indeed overthrown (p. 35). Heretical movements such as Montanism and some gnostic sects in fact preserved Christian egalitarianism. Many gnostics held to both male and female principles in God, while the Shakers had an androgynous vision of God and Christ, anticipating a female Messiah who eventually arrived in the form of Mother Ann Lee. A feminist theology cannot ignore the religions rejected by Judaism and suppressed by Christianity, such as the pre-Christian veneration of nature evident in Goddess cults (pp. 38-39). While critical of Goddess religion (p. 40), she nevertheless admits, 'I have some significant differences with the approach of Feminist Wicca or Goddess religion, although I also share many values with them' (p. 41). Ruether argues that the most ancient image of the divine was female, the Primal Matrix, the great Womb within which all things were generated (pp. 47-49). The male monotheism of Judaeo-Christianity reinforces patriarchy and inevitably led to the suppression of these primal religions (p. 53). She describes God as 'the empowering Matrix; She, in whom we live and move and have our being — She comes; She is here' (p. 266).

Evaluation

1. In her thinking on the propriety of an advocacy stance, an assumption typical of feminist theology, Fiorenza has some important things to say. The twentieth century has shown the post-Kantian ideal of value-free neutrality to be the myth that it is. We are not neutral observers external to reality. We are part of the scene ourselves. The knower has an integral place in knowledge, as Polanyi has convincingly demonstrated. It is well that subtle biases in interpreters be recognized so that resultant distortions can more readily be seen. The gender of the theologian or biblical reader may well affect the interpretation. That should apply on a wider scale than the individual, too.

However, Christian feminists are saying more than that. The advocacy stance, instead of being a tool of interpretation, has become a dominant master. It is the feminist critical principle before which everything is to be judged. As such, it is not the reality, the thing to be known (whether the Bible, God or Christ), but the personal commitments of the interpreter that assume critical and determinative significance. We recall how George Tyrell described Adolf von Harnack gazing down the well of history to see at the bottom the reflection of a liberal bourgeois German face. How, in similar terms, can the exponent of a feminist advocacy stance fail to avoid seeing simply the reflection of a professional middle-class feminist?

2. In its explicit gynocentrism Christian feminist hermeneutics is open to all the common criticisms levelled at the anthropocentrism of the post-Enlightenment period. 'Know then thyself, presume not God to scan; the proper study of mankind is man', wrote Alexander Pope. Anthropocentrism represents an inversion of the creature's proper orientation, which Christianity has classically maintained is towards God, to glorify and enjoy him forever. Doubtless, there are many instances of anti-female prejudice in church and society that need correction. I am not defending past social systems and past attitudes to women any more than present or future ones. However, a hermeneutic so explicit in placing human beings in autonomy is in practice reversing the proper relationship between Creator and creature.

3. Christian feminism regards women's experience, not Holy Scripture, as the highest authority in all matters of faith, worldview and practice. The feminist critical principle as expounded by Fiorenza makes the feminist theologian and the feminist community the criterion of truth. At very least, there is a serious

loss of prophetic capacity if the interpreter and the community become the highest judges. Who is to judge whether a statement in the Bible does or does not promote the full humanity of women? The feminist community, of course! Who is to judge whether the feminist community has departed from truth? Why, the feminist community, of course! Dare anyone name this idolatry?¹⁷

It is not without significance that Letty Russell, Ruether, Fiorenza and Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite all acknowledge that the Bible is against them.¹⁸ Ruether declares that feminist theology must create for itself a new textual base. She recognizes that feminist theology cannot be done from the existing base of the Christian Bible.¹⁹ As Daphne Hampson argues, Holy Scripture and the feminism we have discussed are incompatible.²⁰

4. The impact of Christian feminism on various areas of theology, due to its basic hermeneutical principles, is fairly clear. The feminist critical principle involves a new anthropology. Since humanity is the image of God, such a reassessment entails a redefinition of God. Some new liturgies have already taken this step, eliminating both sexist language and the use of the masculine personal pronoun in speaking of God. My article, mentioned above (n. 1), explores some factors relevant in the matter. Ruether suggests a new Christology, for Christ is not necessarily male. A male Christ distances women from full representation in the new humanity. The world today longs for a redemptrix, a Christ who can affirm womanhood. She asks about ways in which we need a woman Christ.²¹ Moreover, since history has been written by men (the winners) so as to oppress women, Sheila Collins wants to replace history by *herstory*. Thus, the feminist herstory can overcome the imperialism of the historical event.²² Since the cross and resurrection are historical events, we can assume that women will thereby be liberated from these too, or at least from the hopelessly male interpretation of them we find in the Bible. So much is evident when Collins herself maintains that the ancient mother goddesses are equal to Christ in their integrative and transformative powers.²³ At the time she wrote Collins was a director of Voluntary Services for the United Methodist Church (USA).

5. By basing so much freight on creative historical reconstruction, Fiorenza has opened Christian feminism to the charge that its historical scholarship is founded not on basis of evidence but of imagination. Fiorenza herself certainly sanctions a highly imaginative reconstrual of early Christian history in her adoption of the apocryphal hypothesis of a serious vendetta between the apostle Peter and Mary Magdalene that led to Peter assuming a prominence which Jesus had not given him and which consigned Mary Magdalene (Jesus' primary apostle) to the historical dustbin.²⁴ The basic issue is how far imaginative construal can be taken before the historical evidence we have is redefined as pure prejudiced propaganda.

6. A basic interpretative assumption of feminism is that male and female are virtually two separate creatures with interests and concerns diametrically opposed to one another and locked in irreconcilable conflict. While the differences between men and women are obvious and, indeed, in some senses more significant than has often been supposed in recent times, the Bible nevertheless indicates that the features human beings possess in common far outweigh the differences. Both male and female are defined as *adam*, 'man' (Gn. 1:26-28), made in the image of God. Both together fell into sin (Gn. 3:1f.). Both need salvation. Male and female are complementary, not competitive.

Religious feminism

Further afield from Christian feminism are those who have either abandoned Christianity as incorrigibly patriarchal or others who have never made any pretence at such an association. Mary Daly, a former Catholic, wrote a book entitled *Beyond God the Father* and, in a note to an article entitled 'Why speak about God?', remarked that now 'I use the term *Goddess* rather than the hopelessly male identified term *God*'.²⁵ The main features of religious feminism are the veneration of the female body, and Goddess worship that includes pantheistic worship of nature and witchcraft. The occult is prominent. Naomi R. Goldenberg reflects on the importance of dreams and visions in the thought of Carl Jung. Dreams are sources of revelation, she claims. She herself often has recourse to a spirit guide whom she calls 'the Australian pioneer', with whom she first became acquainted during a trance experience based on Jungian techniques.²⁶ Starhawk and Szusanna E. Budapest (both witches) extol the earth-centred nature worship associated with the Goddess. Goddess religions symbolize the exorcism of the

patriarchal policeman and the affirmation of the divine in women: 'In self-blessing, you affirm the divine you'.²⁷ As Carol P. Christ, citing a feminist play, puts it: 'I found God in myself and I loved her fiercely'.²⁸ With the use of astral energies, astral projection, trance states and expanded awareness advocated by Starhawk²⁹ and evident in much religious feminism, we find ourselves in territory occupied by the New Age movement.

The point is this: *these extremes differ from Christian feminism in degree but not in kind*. Members of both groups contribute to common symposia. Differences, yet common ground, are acknowledged by such as Ruether. Above all, the hermeneutical assumptions of the Christian feminists not only lead in this direction, they positively require that this step be taken. Once the experience of women is made determinative, once the authority of Bible and church is abandoned due to alleged patriarchal bias, once God and Christ are to be redefined as 'not necessarily male', the door is open in hermeneutical terms for the principal move to *women's religion*, to worship not of a male God who cannot relate to women but to a female god with whom women can be one.

Evangelical feminism

Finally, we move across the spectrum to evangelicals who have tried to address some of the existential concerns of the feminist movement. I have space only to refer to contributions by Mary Evans and Elaine Storkey.³⁰ These two works contain much helpful material. Evans writes as a biblical scholar and Storkey as a sociologist. Overall, they move in a very acceptable direction. However, there are a number of hermeneutical areas to which further attention should be given.

Firstly, both display selectivity in their use of theological models. Naturally, some selectivity is unavoidable. Reasons of space prevent everything being said at once. Again, judgments must be made about what is significant and what is less so. Despite this, I have yet to encounter serious consideration by evangelicals of some issues crucial to the feminist case. For instance, in her discussion of Genesis 1 and 2, Evans argues carefully for equality and complementarity between the sexes. In her discussion of the NT teaching, she considers the Pauline letters at length. Yet nowhere does she face the issue of why, if Eve was the first to take the forbidden fruit, the human race is nevertheless held accountable for the sin of Adam? This is more than simply an issue of exegesis. It concerns fundamental structures of Pauline theology, which impinge crucially on his Christology and soteriology. Historically, the church found the solution in the headship of Adam over the race (Eve included). Failure to discuss this matter makes the case for full reciprocity much more convincing. At the same time it is also weaker. The absence of a key Pauline theological model conditions the exegesis and conclusions.

Secondly, both build a vital and central part of their case on now disputed scholarship. In an article in 1954, Stephen Bedale argued that *kephale* in 1 Corinthians 11:3 does not mean 'head' or 'authority over' but instead 'source' or 'origin'. Thus, Bedale understood Paul to say that the woman (Eve) simply originated from the man (Adam). In short, Paul was not stating that women are in *any sense* subordinate to men. Bedale's claim was based on the use of the word in extra-biblical Greek.³¹ However, with the technological explosion and resulting computerized access to vast mountains of linguistic data, these conclusions look tenuous. Both Evans and Storkey wrote before this new knowledge became available. We cannot hold them responsible. Working independently, Wayne Grudem and J.A. Fitzmeyer have both shown that in extra-biblical Greek *kephale* normally means 'head' or 'authority over' and does not mean 'source' or 'origin', and that no number of appeals to the context can evade it.³² This conclusion has also found support from Peter Cotterell and Max Turner.³³ This statement of Paul's is a major crux in the whole debate. The burden of proof must now rest squarely on the feminists.

Finally, evangelical feminists generally and Evans and Storkey in particular fail to set their arguments in what must be the widest and profoundest theological context. Is there anything [*sic*] more foundational than God, or more crucial for theology than the Trinity? As I have argued elsewhere,³⁴ God is the best light to view the relationship between man and woman. First, God created human beings in his own image. God is a relational being, living in internal unbroken fellowship. Man, in his image, is also a relational being consisting of male and female. Second, since God created all things to display his glory there can be no greater or

more appropriate theological or hermeneutical model. Consequently, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit live in unbroken unity and full equality of essence and status yet simultaneously an order exists expressed in sending and being sent, sending and proceeding (an order that cannot be reversed¹⁵), so male and female live in full equality of essence and status yet not without a simultaneous order of authority and submission that must be seen in the context of the equality already described. Thus, feminist attempts at egalitarianism falter on the created reality of the human being and transgress the order God has given, which in turn is a created analogue of his own internal structure. On the other hand, patriarchal attempts at tyranny and domination also transgress man's created reality and, even more, the unity and equality of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The oppression of women is sin against women, men and God himself. We can find solutions neither in past nor present social systems, nor in future utopias. Only in God, who made us in his own image, do we find revealed the theological and hermeneutical ground of our being. Evangelical feminists as well as patriarchal traditionalists will do well to consider this.

¹'See my article, 'The Man-Woman Debate: Theological Comment', in *The Westminster Theological Journal* 52 (1990), pp. 65-78. The focus is on feminist theology since I am a theologian and these are theological journals.

²Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, *In Memory of Her: A Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Christian Origins* (New York: Crossroad, 1983), pp. xiii-xxiii ff.

³Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, 'Toward a Feminist Biblical Hermeneutics: Biblical Interpretation and Liberation Theology', in Donald K. McKim (ed.), *A Guide to Contemporary Hermeneutics* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986), pp. 358-364.

⁴*Ibid.*, pp. 377-379; *idem*, *In Memory of Her*, pp. 32-33.

⁵Letty Russell (ed.), *Feminist Interpretation of the Bible* (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1985), p. 11.

⁶Margaret A. Farley, 'Feminist Consciousness and the Interpretation of Scripture', in Letty Russell (ed.), *Feminist Interpretation*, pp. 49-50.

⁷Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite, 'Every Two Minutes: Battered Women and Feminist Interpretation', in Russell (ed.), *Feminist Interpretation*, pp. 96, 104-106.

⁸Rosemary Radford Ruether, 'Feminist Interpretation: A Method of Correlation', in Letty Russell (ed.), *Feminist Interpretation*, pp. 111-113; *idem*, *Sexism and God-Talk: Toward a Feminist Theology* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1983), p. 12.

⁹Ruether, *Sexism*, pp. 18-19.

¹⁰Letty Russell, 'Authority and the Challenge of Feminist Interpretation', in *idem* (ed.), *Feminist Interpretation*, pp. 137-146.

¹¹Fiorenza, *In Memory of Her*, pp. 68ff. On pp. 167-168, Fiorenza says that women's actual contribution to the early Christian missionary movement is lost due to the scarcity of the sources and the androcentric bias of those that do exist. It must be rescued by the use of historical imagination and by filling out and contextualizing the fragmentary information we do have. The historical texts and information on the women's movement at that time must not be taken as descriptive of the actual situation either. They are merely the tip of the iceberg and refer only to those women who have survived androcentric redactions and historical silence. Fiorenza appears to be saying that from what you have got, you read between the lines and what you have not got you make up yourself. On any other issue a procedure such as this would be laughed out of court and the professional integrity of the practitioner be irretrievably lost.

¹²Fiorenza, *In Memory of Her*, pp. 332f.; *idem*, 'Mary Magdalene:

Apostle to the Apostles', *UTS Journal* (April 1975), pp. 22ff. Margaret A. Farley supports this approach too, for she claims that women have good reason to be suspicious of Scripture: Russell (ed.), *Feminist Interpretation*, p. 47.

¹³Fiorenza, *In Memory of Her*, pp. 107-109.

¹⁴Barbara Brown Zikmund, 'Feminist Consciousness in Historical Perspective', in Russell (ed.), *Feminist Interpretation*, p. 22.

¹⁵Fiorenza, *In Memory of Her*, pp. 97ff.

¹⁶Zikmund, in Russell (ed.), *Feminist Interpretation*, p. 29.

¹⁷Phyllis Trible sheds a rare ray of light in warning that feminism has its own potential for idolatry, in 'Postscript: Jottings on the Journey', in Russell (ed.), *Feminist Interpretation*, p. 148.

¹⁸Russell and Thistlethwaite in Russell (ed.), *Feminist Interpretation*, pp. 11f., 137f., 96-107. Ruether, *Sexism*, p. 23, acknowledges that many aspects of the Bible are frankly to be set aside and rejected. Fiorenza, in McKim (ed.), *A Guide to Contemporary Hermeneutics*, p. 379, states that the Bible is not only a source of truth but also of violence and domination.

¹⁹Rosemary Radford Ruether (ed.), *Womanguides: Readings Toward a Feminist Theology* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1985), p. ix.

²⁰Those disputing this statement should read Daphne Hampson, *Theology and Feminism* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1990). Hampson, who teaches theology at the University of St Andrews, charts her own spiritual pilgrimage from a devout Anglicanism and membership of the General Synod of the Church of England to her eventual repudiation of the Christian faith under the inherent logic of her feminist beliefs.

²¹Ruether, *Womanguides*, pp. 105, 111-112; *idem*, *Sexism*, pp. 116-138.

²²Sheila Collins, 'Reflections on the Meaning of Herstory', in Carol P. Christ and Judith Plaskow (eds), *Womanspirit Rising: A Feminist Reader in Religion* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1979), pp. 68-73.

²³Christ and Plaskow (eds), *Womanspirit Rising*, p. 71.

²⁴Fiorenza, *In Memory of Her*, pp. 68ff.

²⁵Mary Daly, 'Why Speak About God?', in Christ and Plaskow (eds), *Womanspirit Rising*, p. 210.

²⁶Naomi R. Goldenberg, 'Dreams and Fantasies as Sources of Revelation: Feminist Appropriation of Jung', in Christ and Plaskow (eds), *Womanspirit Rising*, pp. 219-227.

²⁷Zsuzsanna E. Budapest, 'Self-Blessing Ritual', in Christ and Plaskow (eds), *Womanspirit Rising*, pp. 269-272; Starhawk, 'Witchcraft and Women's Culture', in *ibid.*, pp. 259-268; *idem*, *The Spiral Dance: A Rebirth of the Ancient Religion of the Great Goddess* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1979).

²⁸Carol P. Christ, 'Why Women need the Goddess: Phenomenological, Psychological, and Political Reflections', in Christ and Plaskow (eds), *Womanspirit Rising*, p. 273.

²⁹Starhawk, *The Spiral Dance*, pp. 142ff.

³⁰Mary J. Evans, *Woman in the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983); Elaine Storkey, *What's Right with Feminism?* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985).

³¹S. Bedale, 'The Meaning of *kephale* in the Pauline Epistles', *JTS* 5 (1954), pp. 211-215.

³²Wayne Grudem, 'Does *kephale* ('Head') Mean 'Source' or 'Authority Over' in Greek Literature? A Survey of 2,336 Examples', *Trinity Journal* 6 (1985), pp. 38-59; Joseph A. Fitzmeyer, S.J., 'Another Look at *KEPHALE* in 1 Corinthians 11:3', *NTS* 35 (1989), pp. 503-511.

³³Peter Cotterell and Max Turner, *Linguistics and Biblical Interpretation* (London: SPCK, 1989), pp. 141-145, 183, 317. Space forbids further discussion of this issue.

³⁴Robert Letham, 'The Man-Woman Debate: Theological Comment', (see n. 1).

³⁵These relations are mentioned in the Bible. The church recognized them in its trinitarian confession. They are not imposed on the Godhead but are part of the historic Christian faith. Note the significant passage in Karl Barth, *CD* 4/1, pp. 192-205.