



Notes On The Woman
in CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM
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Your way to the truth
and happiness

Women in Christianity: Honor Thy Father and Mother

The Old Testament in several places commands kind and considerate treatment of the parents and condemns those who dishonor them. For example, "If anyone curses his father or mother, he must be put to death" (Lev. 20:9) and "A wise man brings joy to his father but a foolish man despises his mother" (Proverbs 15:20). Although honoring the father alone is mentioned in some places, e.g. "A wise man heeds his father's instruction" (Proverbs 13:1), the mother alone is never mentioned. Moreover, there is no special emphasis on treating the mother kindly as a sign of appreciation of her great suffering in childbearing and suckling. Besides, mothers do not inherit at all from their children while fathers do.

Honor in Christianity Continued

"As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, 'Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you.' He replied, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.' " (Luke 11:27-28)

Honoring Thy Mother in Islam

"A man asked the Prophet: 'Whom should I honor most?' The Prophet replied: 'Your mother'. 'And who comes next?' asked the man. The Prophet replied: 'Your mother'. 'And who comes next?' asked the man. The Prophet replied: 'Your mother!'. 'And who comes next?' asked the man. The Prophet replied: 'Your father'"

The Right to Inheritance in Christianity

The Biblical rules of inheritance are outlined in Numbers 27:1-11.

- A wife is given no share in her husband's estate, while he is her first heir, even before her sons.
- A daughter can inherit only if no male heirs exist.
- A mother is not an heir at all while the father is.



- Widows and daughters, in case male children remained, were at the mercy of the male heirs for provision. That is why widows and orphan girls were among the most destitute members of the Jewish society.

*I love you
Mom*

The Right to Inheritance in Islam

The general rule is that the female share is half the male's.

In some cases a woman inherits the same share as man's.

Also, in some cases a woman inherits more than a male.

The rationale behind why man takes as double as woman does is that man is responsible for the maintenance of his wife and children while woman is not.

Her property and earnings are for her use alone except what she may voluntarily offer her husband.

The Plight of Widows in Christianity

- ◎ The Old Testament recognized no inheritance rights to widows.
- ◎ The male relatives inherited all of her deceased husband's .
- ◎ widows were among the lowest classes in ancient Israel and widowhood was considered a symbol of great degradation (Isaiah 54:4).

According to Genesis 38, a childless widow must marry her husband's brother, even if he is already married, so that he can produce offspring for his dead brother, thus ensuring his brother's name will not die out.

The Plight of Widows in Islam

Those of you who die and leave widows should bequeath for their widows a year's maintenance and residence. But if they [the widows] leave (the residence) there is no blame on you for what they justly do with themselves"

Polygamy in Christianity

Polygamy was common among many Jews, who kept the practice until the 16th century.

According to Father Eugene Hillman in his book 'Polygamy reconsidered'," No where in the New Testament is there any explicit commandment that marriage should be monogamous or any explicit commandment forbidding polygamy" [14]. Moreover, Jesus hasn't spoken against polygamy though it was practiced by the Jews of his society.

Polygamy in Islam

Islam allows for the taking of more than one wife, up to a maximum of four, but only under the condition that the man could afford to take care of them, that he ask permission of the wife he already has and that she agree, and that they all be treated equally.

The Veil in Christianity

St. Paul in the New Testament made some very interesting statements about the veil:

"Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonours his head. And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonours her head .

Also the same fact is stressed in(I Corinthians 11:3-10).

Please note that the statue of marry has its head covered.

The Veil in Islam

- © "Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty.....And say to the believing women that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that they should not display their beauty and ornaments except what ordinarily appear thereof; that they should draw their veils over their bosoms...."
- © *"O Prophet, tell your wives and daughters and the believing women that they should cast their outer garments over their bodies (when abroad) so that they should be known and not molested"*



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