

EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENT

This is an extra credit assignment and is not required. If you choose to do this extra credit work, it will replace your poorest essay or multiple choice section, whichever will give you the most points.

This assignment consists of reading the three articles listed below and writing a 3–4 page **TYPED** essay.

During the course we have discussed the role of women in different ancient civilizations. Not only was the position of women affected by societal but also by religious factors. The three articles you will read examine the affect on women by early Christianity. The articles will present differing opinions and views on the subject for you to think about.

Read all three articles and write a 3–4 page typed essay on the following questions:

What was the impact of early Christianity on women in the ancient world? Did Christianity “liberate” women or further repress them? Did the Christian view of women change from the time of Christ until its acceptance by Rome? Explain and discuss.

You **must** show evidence that you read all three articles to receive credit. The readings are contained in two Adobe Acrobat files entitled, *Reading_One.pdf* and *Reading_Two.pdf*. Be sure you download both files. Within those two files are the following three articles.

1. Shottroff, Luise, “Women as Followers of Jesus in New Testament Times.” In Norman K. Gottwald, ed. *The Bible and Liberation: Political and Social Hermeneutics*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1983. pp. 453-461.

Articles two and three are from: “Issue 5: Did Christianity Liberate Women?” in Joseph R. Mitchell, et al. *Taking Sides. Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in World Civilizations, vol I: From Ancient Times to the Rise of Nation States*. (McGraw Hill, 1988).

2. Monique Alexandre, from “Early Christian Women,” in Pauline Schmitt Pantel, ed. *A History of Women in the West, vol. 1: From Ancient Goddesses to Christian Saints*. (Belknap Press, 1992). pp. 82-89.
3. Karen Armstrong, from *The Gospel According to Women: Christianity’s Creation of the Sex War in the West*. (Anchor Press, 1987). pp. 90-97.