OCR H573 | INDEPENDENT REVISION

A* Model Essay

Gender & Theology

Christian Thought

Does the maleness of Jesus prevent Christian theology from affirming the full humanity of women?

1,616 response words | Complete annotated PDF | Individual topic edition

What is included

A complete original response, an argument plan, paragraph-level AO1/AO2 annotations and source works for further reading.

A* describes the intended style of this teaching model. This is independently written, not an OCR-marked script or a guaranteed grade.

Use this model to study argument and evaluation, then write your own answer. Do not submit it as your own assessed work.

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Argument plan

Does the maleness of Jesus prevent Christian theology from affirming the full humanity of women?

Thesis: Jesus's historical maleness becomes exclusionary when it is treated as the normative form of redeemed humanity or a reason for male monopoly of divine representation. Christian theology can instead affirm that the incarnation concerns shared humanity, while reconstructing its language, Christology and institutions so that this claim has practical credibility.

1. Incarnation concerns shared human nature rather than the elevation of every male characteristic.

Counter-argument: The tradition's central symbols have repeatedly associated salvation and authority with maleness.

Interim judgement: Logical inclusion is possible, but historical symbolic effects require more than an abstract denial of divine sex.

2. Ruether's liberating Christology and Johnson's diverse God-language offer internal reform.

Counter-argument: Reinterpretation may alter the received tradition so extensively that its Christian identity is lost.

Interim judgement: Faithful development can preserve core claims while refusing their patriarchal application.

3. Daly exposes the social power of male religious symbolism.

Counter-argument: A verdict of irredeemability overlooks competing symbols and actual theological change.

Interim judgement: Reform is defensible when its effects on women's voice and agency are demonstrable, not merely verbal.