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Book

**Riswold, C. 2014. *Feminism and Christianity: Questions and Answers in the Third Wave.* Cambridge: The Lutterworth Press.**

This book is organized into two parts. Part one addresses feminist questions regarding Christianity. Part two addresses feminist questions regarding Christianity. Each section of the book focuses on a specific question. The section of the book I focused on examined the following questions: Why should feminist care about Christianity?

In this section of the book Riswold contends that feminist should care about Christianity for two main reasons. One, she argues that Christianity is a religion with an egalitarian vision that has and should continue to liberate women. Secondly, Christianity is a patriarchy that is an influential cultural factor. For my paper I focused on the second reason. According to Griswold, Christianity impacts women’s lives in a very significant manner whether or not they choose to participate in the religion or not. As a religion that perpetuates patriarchy, Christianity impacts women’s lives by shaping society. This is regardless of whether the woman is religious or not.

She further argues that in any culture a dominant religion will play a key influential role in defining laws and policies. Christianity is no different and is a significant culture force in America. Riswold points out that every US president has been Christian. The majority of the Supreme Court justices have been Christian as well. Also, 77% of the American population identities as Christian. Citing this evidence Riswold states that Feminist must engage in the critical examination needed to understand Christianity.

Riswold also links the correlation between Christian doctrine and recent controversies, such as pharmaceutical companies refusing to fill contraceptive prescriptions, citing religious beliefs; the passing of Proposition 8 in California; and the anti-abortion movement. Another valid point that she makes is that many women find spiritual sustenance through Christianity. Riswold suggests that feminist examine the egalitarian ideologies of early Christianity and the teaching of Jesus in regards to women.