

ABSTRACT

The aim of this master thesis is to capture the status of women and the perception of them in the period of early Christianity. The perception of women is examined from the perspective of the works of the Church Fathers living approximately between the 4th and 5th centuries, primarily because works by women themselves are not available. The thesis explores the views of the Church Fathers both individually and from the perspectives of the Eastern and Western Churches, with the primary sources being their surviving treatises, letters, and sermons. These works were analyzed from Czech and English translations and are arranged chronologically. The work is divided according to different life roles of women, specifically "Virgines," "Wives," "Widows", "Deaconesses," "Prostitutes," and "Martyrs." The Church Fathers most often drew from the thoughts of St. Paul and, occasionally, from the acts of Jesus, which is why a separate chapter on the relationship of these men to women is included in the thesis. The work relies on a broad base of secondary literature, which separately addresses the attitudes of the Church Fathers towards women and the characteristics of individual roles. I came to a conclusion that most of the mentioned authors fundamentally agree on their views of women; however, minor as well as more significant differences can be observed, both among the authors themselves and between the East and the West.

KEYWORDS

Woman; early christianity; church fathers; virgin; wife; widow; deaconess; gender; east church; west church; saint Paul; Bible; Tertullian; Jerome; Augustin; Ambrose; Cyprianus; Hermas; John Chrysostom; Ireaneus; Gregory of Nissa; Clement of Alexandria; Basil the Great; Gregory of Nazianus

