

THE ROLE AND STATUS OF WOMEN

Non-Christian Practices (Past or Present)	Christian Practices (Past or Present)
<i>Gynaecium</i> : segregated quarters for the wife in her husband's home in ancient Athens	No segregated quarters for wife in her home; she shared with her husband at all times
Athenian wife was confined to her quarters when men guests were present	Women (Mary and Martha) hosted Jesus in their home
<i>Hetaera</i> : man's legal mistress in ancient Greece	No mistresses for men allowed
Veil: worn publicly by married women in Greco-Roman times and most other ancient societies	Veiling of women discontinued after ninth century
<i>Patria potestas</i> : father's absolute power over family members	Father possessed no absolute family power
<i>Manus</i> : Roman husband's absolute power over his wife	Husbands and wives: "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Ephesians 5:21)
<i>Infamia</i> : label for a disobedient Roman woman	No cultural label for a disobedient woman
<i>Coemptio</i> : Roman father sells daughter to her husband	Father not permitted to sell his daughter to her husband
Adultery: based on woman's marital status; a double standard of sexual behavior	Based on marital status of a man or woman; a single standard of sexual behavior
Female babies valued less than male babies	Female and male babies valued equally.
Infanticide: once widely practiced in pagan countries; victims are commonly female infants	Condemned and outlawed in countries with Christian influence.

<p>Polygyny: man may legally have multiple wives</p> <p><i>Michetza</i>: ancient synagogue partition for women</p> <p>Child brides: prepuberty girls given in marriage; still practiced in China, India, and some African countries</p> <p><i>Suttee (sati)</i>: Hindus burning husband's widow in India; practiced for many centuries</p> <p>Foot binding of young girls: once common in China for centuries</p> <p>Clitoridectomy: female genital mutilation, still common in Muslim countries in Africa and Middle East</p>	<p>Monogamy: the only acceptable marriage</p> <p>No church partitions for women</p> <p>Child bride marriages not permitted in countries with Christian influence</p> <p>Banned in India by the British under Christian influence in 1829</p> <p>Condemned by Christian missionaries; Christian influence led to China's outlawing female foot binding in 1912</p> <p>Unequivocally condemned and outlawed in countries with Christian influence</p>
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