

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

A. Background Of Study

The term of theology comes from the Greek Koine, the word “theos” which means *God* or *Illah*, and “logos” which means *words* or *commandment* or *discourse*. Before using this term in the Christian church to learn about the divine knowledge, this term has been used by the Greeks to study about the things of dealing with divinity, even this term we have always heard in matters which speak of the divinity but now the meaning of the term has become widespread and general.¹

Defining theology as a science to know and understand God has been included with a fairly good understanding. However since God in Christian is an active person, therefore the theological sense needs to be explained extensively by not only explaining about God but with everything related to His creation, especially to the human and His circumstances.² The definition of theology here is a field of study of the doctrines of the Christian faith based on the biblical placed in the context of culture commonly dressed in the language of today and linked to current problems. It has been long, that women have injustice in the church, religion and also in the culture they still have not got their rights.

Christian theology was held by the Paulus so that the inauguration of Christian theology became the trinity of the second council in Constantinople in 381 CE.³ There are several reasons for blasphemy by feminist theology of the teachings found in Christian. Christian theology teaches its followers the

¹ Pdt. B.F. Drewes, M.Th., Pdt. Julianus Mojau, M.Th., *Apa Itu Teologi? Pengantar Ke Dalam Ilmu Teologi*, (Jakarta: BPK Gunung Mulia, 2007), p.16-17

² Millard J. Erickson, *Teologi Kristen Volume Satu*, (Malang: Penerbit Gandum Mas, Cetakan Kedua, 2004), p.27

³ Ahmad Taufiq Rozi dan Sholihul Huda, *Perubahan Ketuhanan Kristen*, Al-Hikmah: Jurnal Studi Agama-Agama, Vol. 3, No. 2, 2017

concept of the trinity that exists in Christian, and they also teach about the basis of their faith that they should make reference in religious affiliations and so on.

Based on the theological sense for knowing and studying about the God and His doctrine, Christianity has been taught about the oneness of God in the verse of Mark 12: 29-30.⁴ Monotheism's teaching was brought by Isa Al-Masih taught to the Israelites and to the twelve of his students, who are Israelites. However, after Isa Al-Masih (Jesus) died, his teachings were continued by his twelve students and after they died, His teachings were increasingly different from the truth, and after that all the teachings of the divine.

Some of the Christian teachings that were seen too masculine by women resulted in the emergence of a new theology that changed some of the Christian theology's teachings from the authenticity of the theology is the theology of feminism. A theology that wants to create new nuances in their theology becomes less masculine because there is no difference between men and women because they are all in the image of God.

Christian feminists theology hold Paul's statement in the Bible about the equality of gender, he said "*in this case there is no Jew or Greek, no slave or free person, no man or woman, for you are all one in Christ Jesus*".⁵ This movement wants to fight for equal rights and degrees between men and women. At the beginning of the movement, feminism did not intend to build a new theology but the existence of this movement was only to gain equality of rights and equality of women in the midst of existing Christian theology, and with the many attitudes and rules of the church that overly ignore the women so in its development the movement went so far as to seek justice according to their version and to build a new theology of feminist nuance.⁶

⁴ Bible, Mark 12 : 29-30, (Jesus answered: "The great commandment is: Hear, O Israel, the god of our god, the Lord is one. Have mercy on your god, your god, with all your heart and with all your soul and all your mind and all your strength.)

⁵ Bible, Galatia 3 : 28

⁶ Ev. Aya Susanti M.Th, *Feminisme Radikal Studi Kritis Alkitabiah*, (Bandung:

According to the biblical dictionary, feminist theology related with modern feminists in general. It arises from the experience of women's oppression and the movement argues that traditional Christianity rooted in the Bible is too masculine.⁷ The feminist theologians in their hermeneutics have an imprecise view, but they have a similar pattern of annoying statements that the Bible has been written, read, interpreted and applied in patriarchal glasses. Therefore, Jewish and Christian feminist theologians seek to reread the sacred texts or the Bible from the perspective of women and seeks the theological basis for the recognition of the dignity of women.⁸

With some of the things already described above, the writer feels that the definition of feminist theology needs to be explained deeper and how their views on Christian doctrines which they claim to glorify men more than women so that feminists desire to rewrite the Bible and rename their God in Christian. After considering some of the problems and developments that are still found today, the writer sees that this issue is important to be discussed and investigated further about the aims and objectives of feminist theology and to explain the feminist view in Christian theology.

B. Problem Of Study

Based on the explanation above, the writer tries to find out the problem which can be formulated in question below:

1. What is the feminist view on Christian theology?

C. Purpose Of Study

While the goals of this research are:

1. To find out what is Christian theology in feminist view

D. Importance Of Study

This research is asked to make valuable contributions, especially for

Yayasan Kalam Hidup, Cetakan Pertama, Maret 2008), p.15-18

⁷ WRF Browning, *Kamus Alkitab*, (Jakarta: BPK.Gunung Mulia, 2008), p.104

⁸ Katharina Doop Sakenfeld, *Feminist of Biblical Materials*, (Philadelphia: The Wesminster Press, 1985), p.55

the following purposes:

- 1) Scientifically type:
 - a. To describe the feminist view on Christian theology
 - b. To give the contribution concerning of feminist view on Christian theology
- 2) Social type:
 - a. To answer the problem that talk about feminist view on Christian theology
 - b. To enrich the studies in the feminist view on Christian theology

E. Literature Review

Actually research on feminism has been written in many scientific papers, but the writer has not found any specific research about feminist view on Christian theology, such as:

First, thesis by the title *Identitas Gender Dalam Perspektif Agama Kristen*, written by Ali Halidin student of STAIN Parepare. This thesis told about the gender identity that always deals with the majority and minority issues between men and women in Christian. But this thesis has not explained about the feminist view of Christian itself, and then the writer should add it by explaining the Christian theology in feminist view.

Second, journal written by Christian Siregar, *Menyoal Jenis Kelamin Allah Dalam Perspektif Teologi Feminis: Menuju Teologi Yang Lebih Berkeadilan Terhadap Perempuan*, BINUS University Journal. Vol. 6 No. 4, Jakarta Barat 2015. This paper explains feminist theology that explores the feminine aspects of God and explores the feminine qualities of God in order for gender equality to materialize. However, in this paper the writer did not explained the feminist view of Christian theology, and then the writer should add this journal by explaining about the feminist view of the trinity concept in Christian.

Third, journal written by Siti Zubaidah, *Mengurai Problematika Gender Dan Agama*, YIN YANG Jurnal Studi Gender Dan Anak. Vol. 5 No.

2, Purwokerto 2010. This journal told about the reality of gender differences has implications for differences in status, roles and responsibilities between men and women that create gender inequality or discrimination or oppression. Then, gender inequality in many cases become quite sensitive issue with religious doctrine, even as if the theological legitimacy, but this journal has not explained how was feminism views of the true Christian doctrine. And then the writer should like to add this journal by explaining about the problem of Christian theology according to feminist.

Forth, journal written by Anne Carr, B.V.M, *is a Christian Feminist Theology Possible?*. Theological Studies vol. 43, no. 2, Chicago 1982. This writing told about protest and affirmation of religious women to equality until Christian feminism surpasses itself to be the promised hope of the future, but this writing did not tell about the feminist view on Christian doctrine. Therefore the writer should like to make it clearly by adding the explanation about the feminist view on Christian theology.

Given all the above literature, researcher clearly have not found any specific research that deals with feminist view in Christian theology, because that is all about feminine, gender, sociality and some thoughts of figures about feminism itself according to some religions but there is no explanation about the feminist view of Christian theology. Therefore, the writer tries to make a research that covers all the problems above with the other side that is more focused on feminist view on Christian theology.

F. Theoretical Framework

Theoretical Framework is an approach used to see a problem and conclude a research, which made from any sight of fields of knowledge.⁹ There are some matters that motivated the writer to discuss this topic in this study. The feminist theology which we find in Christian religions, basically makes many differences of thought and opinion about the Christian theology, especially on concept of divinity and sacred book.

⁹ Nashrullah ZM, *Pedoman Penulisan Skripsi*, First Edition, Biro Penelitian dan kajian Ilmiah Institute Studi Islam Darussalam, (Gontor: Trimurti Press, 2005), p. 20

Christian theology is a tradition of critical reasoning about Christian doctrine, which is about what should be taught in the church about Jesus Christ and life in him.¹⁰ Theology is a normative discipline because it concerns not just what is taught in the church but what ought to be. Christian theology is a tradition of Christian reasoning that understands what should be given or taught in the church. Christian theology also teaches the doctrine of the essence of the truth of Jesus mentioned in the Bible and it has a focus on doctrine and not on the law. Feminist theology was born as reaction to the domination and oppression of women who took place inside and outside the church for centuries. Feminism considers that Christian theology is too masculine, they generalize that their teaching only make women as mere sexual objects and as evidence of their vengefulness, they lesbians or related to their kind. The feminist theology's view of the Bible also becomes complicated because they assume that in the Bible there are still many verses that marginalize women therefore they want to interpret and even rewrite the verses more feminist.

Another view of the cultural context of God is limited as a man with the term father rather than "She" so that many feminists translate the name and character of God identified with women.¹¹ The feminist radical theologians consider that God is not always a God of the father (Tuhan Bapa) but God is also described as a woman with the words of Isaiah "*I say from an old time, I am silent, I hold my heart; now I'm going to moan like a woman giving birth, I am angry and gasping.*"¹²

This thesis is entitled "Feminist View In Christian Theology", to prevent misunderstanding and the purpose is to describe the particular topic of this study by seeing on the Mary Daly's thought. The writer needs to clarify the detail of title, that everything will be written is to give the

¹⁰ Professor Phillip Cary, Ph.D., *The History Of Christian Theology*, (USA: The Great Courses, 2008), p. 3

¹¹ Aya Susanti, *Feminis Radikal*, (Jurnal Theologia Aletheia, Vol. 12 No. 21, September 2010), p. 13

¹² Yesaya 42: 14

new science concerning the certain religion in the world and with some of these statements the writer wants to explain about Christian theology in the feminist view.

Through the description, the writer would like to do research of feminist view in Christian theology. Based on all those things, the writer will use the *Theological Approach* while this is research approach of religion as opposed to religion, then the writer will do analysis in their theology.

G. Methodology Of Study

1. The Technique Of Data Collection

Since the research is a library research, the writer collect the data using the technique of documentary. It means that data is a mixed data, most of the books, scripts, and other written materials.

The source of data in this study is classified into primary sources and the secondary ones.

a. The Primary Sources

- 1) The History Of Christian Theology**, Professor Phillip Cary, printed in the USA and published by The Great Courses 2008. This book a source for the discussion of Christian theology and some of the history associated with it
- 2) Teologi Kristen**, Millard J. Erickson, published by Gandum Mas in East Java 2004. This book is used as a source for discussing about Christian theology.
- 3) Feminist Theology And The Challenge Of The Difference**, Margaret D. Kamitsuka, Oxford University Press New York 2007. This book is used as a source for discussing about the women's view of the Christian theology.
- 4) Apa Itu Teologi? Pengantar Ke Dalam Ilmu Teologi**, Pdt. B.F. Drewes, M.Th and Pdt. Julianus Mojau, M.Th, BPK Gunung Mulia Jakarta 2007. This book is used as a source in

explaining the meaning of the theological term as well as some early history of the use of this term.

- 5) **The Modern Theologians: An Introduction to Christian Theology Since 1918 Third Edition**, edited By David F. Ford with Rachel Muers, Blackwell Publishing 2005. This book is used as a source in the discussion of the new theology that appear in Christian theology and this book talked about development of Christian feminist theologians who have brought their knowledge of the theological discourse including symbolic, ethical and gender eschatology.
- 6) **Tuhan Laki-Laki Ataukah Perempuan**, Agus Mustofa, Surabaya PADMA Press, without year. This book talked about the male terms in the holy book of the Qur'an and explains that God cannot be equated with his creation. This book is used as source in discussing about God's gender.

b. The Secondary Sources

A secondary source are those works written by others related to this research including encyclopedia, books, journal, articles, and another writings that help the researcher to understanding the main of the problem.

2. Method And Data Of Analysis

The research method which applied by the writer is descriptive and analytic method. Descriptive method is a method use to search for elements, attributes, and characteristics of phenomenon.¹³ This description method used to describe by submitting appropriate phenomenon of Christian theology in feminist view.

Whereas the analysis method that is the process of searching and

¹³ Prof. Dr. Suryana, M.Si, *Metodologi Penelitian Model Praktis Penelitian Kuantitatif dan Kualitatif Buku Ajar Perkuliahan*, (Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, 2010), p.20

compiling systematically the data of combining the power of scientific methods obtained by using formal processes to solve the problems¹⁴ it will be used to discuss and analyze data in this research. By analyzing the feminist view on Christian theology and its reason, then the writer would like to analyze this problem and conclude the values. First, the writer described and exposed the data of the research. Then the writer interprets the mentioned description, so the writer analyzed the presence of Christian theology in feminist view.

H. System Of Study

To describe and explain as clear as possible, the writer will divide this study into four chapters, as follow:

Chapter One: this chapter consists of background study, problem of study, purpose of study, importance of study, method of study, and some literatures that work through this study, theoretical framework, methodology of research applied, and system of study.

Chapter Two: this chapter has three parts that tried to describe widely about the definition of feminism, theology, and Christian theology in first part it is containing of the feminism explanation which include the meaning of feminism, history of feminism and three waves of feminism. While the second part mentions about the theological sense, through the sub chapters include theology definition, the role of theology and theological foundation. And the third part mention about the Christian theology by the sub learning about God and knowing sacred book.

Chapter Three: this chapter is the description about the main contain of this study. It is an analysis of the writer concerning Christian theology in feminist view, this chapter containing the concept of divinity, through the sub include of doctrine of trinity and gender of God, and the concept of the sacred book which include in the Old Testament and in the New Testament.

¹⁴ Prof. Dr. Sugiyono, *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif Kualitatif*, (Bandung: Penerbit Alfabeta, 2013), p. 244

This chapter discuss about the problem to be discussed and to solved.

Chapter Four: this chapter is containing a result of study, recommendation, as the result of this research, so continued by the closing of the writing.