This paper will discuss the possible link between certain doctrinal views and women’s leadership roles in religious traditions. The paper refers to Mary Farrell Bednarowski’s research on women’s leadership roles in particular churches, which documents such links. The presentation is based on Gunvor Lande’s dissertation *The Vision of Like-worthiness. The Ecumenical Decade 1988–1998 Churches in Solidarity with Women in El Salvador and Norway, Kenya and Japan* in which Bednarowski’s theories are discussed and applied, and references to further research on this topic are given.

Firstly, Bednarowski’s research findings are presented: "In order to understand fully the status of women in a particular religious tradition, it is helpful to consider the views held within that tradition on four topics: the character of the divine, human nature, the function of the clergy, and the nature of marriage. Groups that have a positive relation to leadership roles for women are characterized by (1) a perception of the divine that deemphasizes the masculine, (2) a tempering or denial of the doctrine of the Fall, (3) a denial of the need for a traditional ordained clergy, and (4) a view of marriage which does not hold that marriage and motherhood are the only acceptable roles for women."

The paper will, secondly, question her findings and discuss their relevance for research. Thirdly, the paper will explore practical values of these findings for churches and contemporary religious traditions in Europe: How does doctrine determine leadership roles for women in churches today? How do the four concerns expressed in Bednarowski’s research parallel those of contemporary feminist theology?

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