

Women in Leadership

There are three different perspectives of Biblical truths; universal truths, doctrinal truths and personal truths.

Universal truths: Biblical truths accepted across all denominational lines.

Doctrinal truths: Biblical truths accepted by specific churches.

Personal truths: Biblical truths that we experience through our relationship with Jesus.

Understanding Biblical truths are essential to humility, spiritual growth and unity. No one has the Bible completely figured out knowing everything about God. "Women in ministry" is under the category of doctrinal truths. Our doctrine at LSC recognizes the gifts and callings of women and allows them to walk out their ministry in a position of leadership.

The Old Testament is a reflection of the New Testament and filled with prophecy to give us direction. Jesus quoted and referred to the OT continually in His conversations and teachings. The disciples of Jesus did the same. Some theologians believe there are over 4,000 references to the OT in the NT. The OT gives validity to the NT.

When God delivered His people from bondage in Egypt, it was the start of the nation Israel. Once they entered the Promised Land, the system of government God gave them was through Judges. When Samuel grew old, the people demanded "Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations," (**1 Sam 7:5**).

1 Sam 8:6-8 *But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the Lord. 7 And the Lord said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.*

In order to understand God's design for leadership in His Church, we have to go back to the Old Testament and see the **precedence God sets forth**. God's first choice for governing His people was through Judges who led Israel for approximately 330 years. During this time Israel was ruled by 12 main Judges and perhaps the greatest Judge was Deborah.

Deborah led Israel for forty years as Judge, a military leader, prophetess, song writer and singer, (**Judges 4**). Her "gifting" parallels King David's who was a King, military leader, prophet, song writer, singer and priest. It is undeniable, God gifts women with leadership abilities. Why would He do this, if they are not to lead?

"Deborah literally means "Bee," reminding us of this woman's wisdom, how she liberally shared with her friends, and how her influence and authority were use by God to "sting" Israel's enemies. Her creative talents and leadership abilities distinguish her. Deborah wrote songs and sang them and she was a patriotic woman of God who judges (or led) Israel for 40 years. She might be called the first woman military commander and first female Supreme Court Justice! The keys to Deborah's effectiveness were her spiritual commitment and walk with God, seen in the fact she is called a prophetess. She demonstrates the possibilities for any woman today who will allow the Spirit of God to fill and form her life, developing her full capacities to shape the world around her." SFLB Kingdom Dynamics

Mother's Day 5-10-2020 the message title was "Revival Through Women Warriors." We prophesied several years ago that great women warriors would arise. This was before We The County was created. WTC has Leadership Teams in 19 counties, 6 are male and 13 are female. I believe the greatest impact on the freedom/patriot movement is from females.

Women in the New Testament Church

Acts 21:9 "Now this man had four virgin **daughters** who prophesied."

Philip, who was an evangelist, had four daughters whose prophetic gift was honored, showing that such ministry was fully accepted in the early church. Prophecy is to give direction, encouragement, edification and exhortation.

1 Cor 11:4-5 *“But every **woman** who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head,”*

In 1 Cor 11:2-16, Paul illustrates the model relationship for marriage which will show the glory of God. This is Jesus and the Father, as to a wife and her husband.

The husband and wife are equal and one, but they both were created for different roles and the husband is to be the spiritual leader and thus a *covering* for his wife. The role of the husband is not one of dictatorship, but one of servitude as to lay his life down for his wife just as Christ laid His life down for the Church (His Bride).

Acts 1:14 *“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the **women** and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”*

* “Women had an equal place in the Upper Room, awaiting the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church.”

Acts 2:17 *“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your **daughters** shall prophesy,”*

Peter was quoting scripture from Joel chapter 2. God’s plan has always been to recognize and honor the gifts and calling women have on their lives.

Rom 16:1-2 *“I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a **servant** of the church in Cenchrea, 2 that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.”*

The Greek word *diakonia*, (written here as servant), means **deacon**. Phoebe was in a leadership position, and thought to have carried the written book of Romans to the congregation.

2 John 1-2 *“To the **elect lady** and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth, 2 because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:”*

John addresses his second epistle to the **elect lady**, with the instructions concerning whom she allows to minister in her “house” which usually designates early church fellowship.

***1 Cor 1:11 and Phil 4:2**, Chloe and Euodia seem to be women in whose homes believers gather. The method of designation suggests they were the appointed leaders in their respective fellowships.

1 Tim 2:11-13 *“And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a **man**, but to be in silence.”*

Notice the use of word “woman” and “man,” not “women” and “men.” Strong’s #435 *aner*, also means husband, thus confirming God’s order of marriage. It is not intended to exclude women from teaching.

* “Today multitudes of laywomen and Christian women leaders-licensed or ordained-and prophetesses are helping carry the gospel to the world.” *indicates quotes from the footnotes in the Spirit Filled Life Bible.

Prayer for our Mothers

Lord, we ask You bless and confirm in their heart and spirit the work of their hands and the love that they have so freely given to the children under their care. Validate their worth daily so they have no reason to doubt whether they are loved, valued, and cherished in Your eyes.

Create in them a deep sense of Your protection and trust, so that worry and fear will disappear as they place their children into Your care. Let them know that every prayer they prayed and every encouraging word they have spoken on behalf of their children has been transformed into sweet, fragrant offerings before You.

Whisper deep within their spirit the sweet words they long to hear from You—that nothing can ever separate them from Your love. Help them to nestle daily into the promises of Your Word, standing with faith on the things You declare are true. Let them know that You reward faithfulness, but that true success doesn’t lie in their accomplishments or accolades. Let them rest in the knowledge that they have done all they can—and that they and those they love—truly belong to you. Bless them and their children with a servant’s spirit so one day they will hear “Well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord!”