

Women in Ministry
Questions for Study / Discussion

This is a topic that has divided many churches / denominations and is currently a hot topic in some evangelical church associations. With the rise and dominance of feminism in our society, it is a topic that does come up. GBC has lost families over our position because the woman wanted to do things beyond what we believe Scripture allows.

According to Genesis 1 & 2:

What is the origin of man?

What is the origin of Woman?

What is the specific purpose(s) for which God fashioned Eve from Adam's rib?

Is there any difference between men and women their standing before God? (Gal. 3:26-29)

Are there any restrictions on spiritual gifts which God might grant to a woman? (Rom. 12; 1 Cor. 12)

What are some of the spiritual ministries women practice that are recorded in the Scriptures?

According to Ephesians 5:22-33, what is the role of the man and what is the role of the woman in marriage?

Define the terms "complimentarian" and "egalitarian" in the context of the ministry roles women can have within the church.

According to 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, what are the relative positions God has given to men and women? What should be the attitude of the woman? How would that be demonstrated?

According to 1 Timothy 2:9-15, what restrictions does Paul place upon women? What is the reason / origin of those restrictions?

According to 1 Corinthians 14:34-35, what restrictions does Paul place upon women? What is the reason for the restrictions? (Be careful of the context)

Can a woman meet the qualifications for an overseer / elder in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:4-9? Explain.

What guidelines would you give to women in regards to ministry in each of the following areas:

Teaching

Leadership

Mixed Public speaking

What range of ministry responsibility would you grant to a Deaconess ministry? Be specific about the ministries in which they would only help and those in which they would have practical oversight under the authority of the Elders.

Scenario Questions

Someone inquires whether your church has any pastors that are women, and if not, why not?

A family that moved to a new area due to a job change is having a hard time finding a church. They have found one they like more than the others, but they discovered it has women on the church Elder Board. What advice would you give them?

A missionary who is a single woman is coming to your church to report on her work? What specific ministry opportunities would you grant to her?

A single woman in your church is pursuing full time missions work. What advice regarding her role would you give her for work in helping to plant a church? How can she use her superior Bible knowledge and yet not usurp the role of the men?

How can a wife who has greater Bible knowledge and Christian maturity use her abilities and spiritual gifts without usurping the responsibilities of her husband?

How can a woman who is a talented musician and has theological discernment minister to the congregation in public worship services? How would you advise her? What restrictions would you place upon her?

A woman with a Bible degree in theology starts attending your church. She insists that Paul was a chauvinist and that you are one too if you restrict women from using their spiritual gifts. She likes to point out Galatians 3:28 that there is neither male nor female in the church because all Christians are one in Christ Jesus. She also likes to point out that Deborah was a judge (Judges 4), that Miriam, Huldah and Anna were all prophetesses. How will you respond to her?

A man who is has started attending your church begins to talk about the Bible teachers he likes to listen to and who have helped him understand Jesus and Christianity. He lists some that are very solid, and then also mentions several women whom you know consider themselves to be public preachers and some even have the title of "Pastor." How will you deal with him?