

Women in Spiritual Leadership (Scriptures from the NIV)

The Questions We Hope to Answer from the New Testament

1. Can a woman be the lead pastor (teaching elder) of a church? Can she be an overseer (elder) or a deacon?
2. What leadership roles are women specifically allowed?
3. What principles can be gleaned about the complimentary roles of men and women in the Body of Christ?

*God's Love and Concern for Women: Numbers 30:3-15; 1 Peter 3:7

The Qualifications of Overseers and Deacons

1 Tim 3:1-12

3:1 Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an **overseer**, he desires a noble task. 2 Now the overseer must be above reproach, **the husband of but one wife**, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 **He** must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. 5 (If anyone does not know how to manage **his** own family, how can **he** take care of God's church?) 6 **He must not be a recent convert**, or **he** may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 7 **He** must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that **he** will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. 8 **Deacons**, likewise, **are to be men** worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. 9 They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. 11 In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. 12 A deacon must be **the husband of but one wife** and must **manage** his children and his household well.

Women to Be Silent and in Submission

1 Cor 14:33-35

33 As in all the congregations of the saints, 34 **women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says.** 35 If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.

1 Tim 2:8-15

8 I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing. 9 I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, 10 but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God. 11 **A woman should learn in quietness and full submission.** 12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. 15 But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

1 Cor 11:2-5

2 I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the teachings, just as I passed them on to you. 3 Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, **and the head of the woman is man**, and the head of Christ is God. 4 Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. 5 And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is just as though her head were shaved.

The Diverse and Vitally Important Roles of Woman Indicated in the New Testament

Acts 2:18

18 Even on my servants, **both men and women**,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

Acts 21:8-9

8 Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven. 9 **He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.**

Gal 3:28-29

28 **There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.** 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Luke 8:1-3

8:1 After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; 3 Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. **These women were helping to support them out of their own means.**

John 20:16-18

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Rom 16:1-2

16:1 **I commend to you our sister Phoebe**, a servant of the church in Cenchrea. 2 I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many people, including me. 3 Greet **Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus.** 4 **They risked their lives for me.** Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them.

Phil 4:2-3

2 I plead with **Euodia** and I plead with **Syntyche** to agree with each other in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, **help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel**, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Col 4:15

15 Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to **Nympha and the church in her house.**

Acts 16:13-15

13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. 14 One of those listening was a woman named **Lydia**, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. 15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, **she invited us to her home.** "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

Acts 9:36

36 In Joppa there was a disciple named **Tabitha** (which, when translated, is Dorcas), **who was always doing good and helping the poor.**

Titus 2:3-5

3 Likewise, **teach the older women** to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. 4 **Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.**

