

## Women in Ministry

Complementarianism View

Egalitarian View

Love's View

### Attributes of a Discipleship Learning Community

***Walking in love restores proper order and balance on earth as it is in heaven. We have been called for such a time as this in order that we may walk in love, for His glory.***

- God Focused and Christ like
- Learning to trust and obey God
- Inquiring to understand each other not judge
- Cooperating verses competing
- Safe
- Fearing less and loving more
- Demonstrating mutual respect
- Appreciating the best of what is
- Growing emotionally and spiritually
- Inclusive (both Jews and Gentiles)
- Being responsible and accountable

***"Whatever we do in word or deed we are to do it for the glory of God. "***

**Colossians 3:17**

**(See also [Titus 3:9](#))**

## But the Greatest of These is Love

### Matthew 22:36-40

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

In a world filled with confusion, corruption, and cheating God is calling His people to be a light in dark places by [proclaiming the gospel](#) and responding to [The Great Commission](#). Our response to, rather than our opinions about this divine calling is what God is watching for. While a needy world observes our outward responses God is looking within the hearts of His people.

### To Serve or Not to Serve That is the Question!

While the church continues to debate how women should or should not serve and whether women are to be ordained as pastors or serve in leadership roles the end is drawing nearer.

Controversy between complementarianism verses egalitarianism—has been a long standing debate with no end in sight. While complementarianism holds fast to the view that women should not serve in church leadership roles egalitarianism maintains that there are no gender specific restrictions. There is another view, however, that must be elevated and that is God's view of what is most important to Him. Matthew 22:36-40 is clear love must come first and [whatever we do in word or deed we are to do it for the glory of God \(Colossians 3:17\)](#). Consequently, this debate is redundant in nature wasting precious time, energy, and resources that could be better spent in honoring what's uppermost in the heart of God – walking in love by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### [The Evangelical Christian Church in Canada](#)

Paul in Romans names Phoebe of Cenchrea as a diakonos—a "deacon," not a "deaconess"—and also a prostates ("guardian") of himself and others.



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### About Rev. Joanne and FHL Ministries

#### Expressing faith and hope through love.

As a committed follower of the Lord Jesus Christ and pastor my goal is to express my faith and hope through love in practical ways such as in Biblical counseling, discipleship, and by administering the ordinances sanctioned by God such as weddings, baby dedications, celebration of life, the Lord's supper, the washing of feet, and believer's baptism.

#### New Life Discipleship Ministry

New Life Discipleship Ministry (Mark 2:22) focuses on building an intimate relationship with God, while acknowledging the sufficiency of Scripture blending evangelism and edification of the saints.

New Life Discipleship Ministry (NLDM) is my response to The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19). My calling is to build up and equip born-again believers (both Jews and Gentiles) so they in turn can disciple others. Together; we can learn to fear less and love more.

### Ephesians 4:4

**For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.**



Rather than counter complementarianism or defend egalitarianism this paper is intended to take us on a brief journey to consider what would have been left undone had the women cited in the Bible not responded to God and their divine calling.

### Affections of the Soul

Paul spoke about the inward man in Romans 7:22 as did Peter in 1 Peter 3:1-6. "Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husband's so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words but by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine

clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear." The holy women of the Bible were called to submit to their husbands. Changing their husband's was God's responsibility; theirs was to love and respect them. Yes Abraham was the head of the household, yet Sarah was his discerning mate.

Paul clearly recognized the power of women for teaching and evangelizing (Romans 16:1-6 & Philippians 4:2-3). In Paul's day, many women were not as well educated as men therefore, *in some instances* women were discouraged to teach. Essentially women were to honor the Lord by living a Godly life.

Paul advised slaves, without advocating the institution of slavery in Romans 6:1-2; in doing so he was making reference as to how the people could try to accommodate one another in an imperfect culturally oriented society. As such, our Biblical submission should not be separated from our Biblical responsibilities.

Jesus Himself told us in Mark 10:29, those who have left their families to serve and follow Him will receive endless blessings for doing so. He exaggerated this point to emphasize the importance of us always placing Him first, in no way was God encouraging the division of families. He warned us not to compare our personal relationship with Him, with our relationships with others-they are not comparable (Matthew 10:37-39, Luke 14:26-33). He was asking us to place Him front row and centre in all our relationships and circumstances, promising to enhance them, as we continue to trust and walk in obedience; He promised, this would build a solid foundation. Possessing a humble and submissive Spirit is God's standard for all believers (Mark 10:42-45).

The Old Testament highlights a women's role as being that of a helper toward her husband, child bearing, and if single-she was to live a chaste life. Mothers were to teach their children how to live in harmony with God, God's people, and how to best serve Him. The older women were to teach the younger women how to behave.

Numerous scriptures refer to godly behavior that does not differentiate between the genders (Galatians 3:28). All God's people are to conduct themselves as humble gentle servants of the Lord (See also: Scriptures incorporating the words gentle or gentleness).



## The Power of Love vs. The Love of Power

Throughout Scripture women fulfilled roles such as, leaders, prophetess, managers, ministers, missionaries, messengers, evangelists, servants, deaconess, teachers, and apostles. Many believe Junias (Romans 16:7) is feminine and refers to a woman who, along with her husband, was an apostle of the church, serving as a church messenger or missionary (2 Corinthians 8:23 and Philippians 2:25). 1 Corinthians 11:5, 1 Timothy 2:8-9, Acts 2:17, Acts 21:9 highlight the involvement of women in God's work. What would Paul's and Jesus' not to mention countless others ministries have been like without the help of women?

For God so **L**oved the world,  
that he gave his **O**nly begotten Son,  
that whosoever belie**V**eth in him should not perish,  
but have ev**E**rlasting life.

— John 3:16 KJV  
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Abigail in 1 Samuel 25:1-35, took matters into her own hands when her foolish husband, refused to help David. The Old Testament did not restrict women to speak in the Lord's name. Hebrew women were honored. Miram (Micah 6:4) had a part in Israel's deliverance from slavery. Miriam was a prophetess (Exodus 20:21).

Deborah was chosen to liberate a distressed and defeated people. She was a prophetess and a warrior leader (See Judges). She judged Israel for 40 years. She exercised authority in legal matters. She created some of the grandest poetry within the Holy Bible.

Hannah in the book of 1 Samuel was not silenced by her husband Eli. He was inspired by her public praise to the Lord, he recorded her song for the benefits of generations to come (Luke 1:46-55).

2 Kings 22:14, points out how four prophets communed with Huldah because, they did not know what to do in their predicament with Josiah (1 Kings 15-19).

Queen Esther, by her heroic patriotism won her nation a great deliverance. There were many

other women who proclaimed good tidings (Psalm 68:11).



Right from the beginning God acknowledged man and women as having equal dominion in Eden (Genesis 1:26-27, Romans 5:12 and 1 Corinthians 15:22).

Eve was deceived by the devil; she did not deliberately sin, but became a sinner through disobedience, however Adam made a conscious choice to disobey God. God challenged Adam not Eve in Genesis 3:9-11 because of what he did not because of a position he held (other references-1 Timothy 2:12-14 & 2 Corinthians 11:3). All fall short of the glory of God not one is righteous (Romans 3:23). This has nothing to do with the order of creation, but the condition of mankind's heart and propensity to go its own way.

God's plan to include Mary spoke volumes as to how He viewed women. Anna was a prophetess (1 Corinthians 14:3), she spoke freely and openly in the Jewish temples, *no one tried to stop her*. Men, not God, forbid women to speak in the temples; therefore, *overcoming this obstacle was indeed the work of God. The disciple's were awe struck when they saw Jesus teaching the woman from Samaria in John 4:28-29. Men of that time were taught it was better to destroy the law, rather than to teach it to women.* Women played a major role in the life of Jesus; they anointed Him, praised Him, and stayed by His side until His death, and it was Mary Magdalene who joyously proclaimed Jesus resurrection.

Other men respected women's contribution concerning serving the Lord; they honored God by uniting to pray- they placed God first, (Luke 8:2, Luke 24:10, Matthew 27:55, Mark 15:40, and Mark 16:1).



## 'Church' Doctrine

In order to better understand the two schools of thought on page one we must grasp the true meaning of the Word "church." 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9 are in reference to the 'church,' but what exactly is meant by church in this context?

In Acts 20:17-38 Paul 's instructions were not about church leadership or who should or should not serve as leaders, instead, Paul was telling his audience to be committed to safeguarding their relationship with God and His Word (See: verse 32 and John 10:35). He was not talking about

## One Spirit

Israel's victories were commonly celebrated by women who sang and danced. In the book of Joel 2:28-29 and Acts 2:18, God promised to pour out His Holy Spirit on, both, men and women, both, were to prophecies. 1 Corinthians 11:5 emphasized this truth, as it bears the witness of women prophesying in the assembly and praying in the church.

Multitudes of women of every generation have diligently served our Lord. Some were

church structure, but being faithful to God and our calling on earth as it is in heaven.

### Overseers

The words "elder," "bishop," "pastor," etc., all refer to the same office, and that office means "superintendent," or "overseer." "These members were to be most carefully selected, according to the instructions Paul had given Titus previously." When overseers were required to maintain order, morality and integrity of the church and Word the members were to be chosen because of their

destine to go to far off lands, others to stay in their own countries, communities, and homes. Regardless of where and how they served, honoring our Lord, moment by moment, day by day, should never have been nor should it ever be frowned upon or stifled in any way otherwise we grieve and quench the Holy Spirit. Anywhere the true gospel is preached there will be liberty for both men and women.



capacity to love, be humble and because of their dedication to spiritual matters in the best interest of those they were protecting (e.g. their flock). This ministry is critical to the Body of Christ in order to keep out wolves in sheep's clothing. In no way were women to be restricted from serving God wherever they were with the gifts, talents, and abilities He graced them with for His glory and the good of those who love Him. On the contrary, it was not a position of authority, but of loving kindness to support rather than oppress God's people regardless of gender (See also: [Church Order by D. Thomas](#)).

If a woman proclaims the gospel to a man should he reject it on the basis that he has been taught that a woman should not teach a man? If so, then that man and those who have taught him have been greatly deceived (See: Hebrews chapter 8).



### Matthew 18:20

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." *This is the church.*

### Church History

The New Testament records the history of the church from approximately A.D. 30 to approximately A.D. 90. In the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th centuries, history records several Roman Catholic doctrines and practices among early Christians (Read more: [Got Questions](#)).

### The New Covenant

This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. **I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts.** I will be their God, and they will be my people. **No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother,** saying, "Know the Lord, 'because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear (Hebrews 8:10:13).

*There is neither Jew  
nor Greek, slave nor  
free, male nor female,  
for you are all one in  
Christ Jesus.  
Galatians 3:28*

#### **Biblical References for Women Serving the Lord!**

Exodus 15:20, 38:8  
Deuteronomy 22:5  
Judges 4:4  
Ruth 3:11  
2 Samuel 20:16  
2 Kings 22:14  
1 Chronicles 7:24  
2 Chronicles 34:22  
Esther 4:8  
Proverbs 11:16 & 11:22  
Proverbs 14:1  
Proverbs 31  
Acts 18:26  
Romans 16:1-16  
1 Corinthians 11:3, 11 12-15, 14:34  
Philippians 2:25  
1 Timothy 2:9-15  
Titus 2:3

#### **Credits**

The New International  
Version-The Holy Bible

The Evangelical Christian  
Church in Canada

Women in Ministry  
(L.E. Maxwell with Ruth C.  
Dearing)

Got Questions

Biblical Manhood and  
Womanhood



## The Promise

In Galatians 3:28 Paul is speaking about justification by faith alone; not by works (Galatians 2:16). In Galatians 3:15-29, Paul cites the difference between the law and the promise, not genders; therefore, these passages refer to salvation instead of gender roles.

Praise God that salvation

## Headship of Single Women 1 Corinthians 11:3

"But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God." So who then is the head of single women?

Jesus Christ is the head of all single women, for He is indeed their

## My Prayer!

To conclude, my prayer for the church is this: "that together we will become emotionally stable and spiritually mature spirit-filled believers that walk in love, for Christ's namesake. May godly wisdom, spiritual discernment, and loving kindness be the source of our inner beauty and the fuel for our light for all to see, for God's

is not dependent upon our worthiness, ethnicity, economic status, or gender. Christ looks upon His Church as His cherished bride regardless of gender. Conversely He expects a husband to care for his bride the way He cares for His Church (Ephesians 5:29-lovingly with tenderness, forgiveness, compassion, etc). Ephesians: 21-33, clarifies

Spiritual Bridegroom as He is for the entire Body of believers.

### Interdependency



glory. Let us not be weighed down, distracted, derailed, or divided by foolish controversies, instead let us contend for the faith just as we are called (Matthew 22:36-40) to win those who are intoxicated with a sense of worldly freedom. Let us not become proud, blinded, or tempted in any way, but rather, continue to clothe ourselves with the full

these standards of living in further detail. The husband is to be the head of the household and the wife a helper-she is to walk beside him. 1 Peter 5:5 "Young men, in the same way are to be submissive to those who are older. All of you (not just some) clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God (1 Corinthians 11:12).



armor of God until the day of Christ Jesus (Ephesians 6:11-13).

Jesus, help us to love one another as You have loved us, so that everyone will know that we are your disciples. (Love's View).

*In Jesus Glorious Name,  
**AMEN!***

