

WOMEN AND  
THE NEW COVENANT CHURCH  
A Biblical Re-Consideration

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PURPOSE

✦ To bring clarity to some of the practical changes we have implemented as a church over the last several years, particularly in comparison to our church constitution which was originally adopted 23 years ago.

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FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE #1

✦ **Both men and women are created in the image of God and tasked to fulfill the creation mandate**

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FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE #2

- ◆ **The Holy Spirit gives all the kinds of spiritual gifts to both men and women as He pleases**

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FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE #3

- ◆ **The significant place of women in the New Covenant**
- ◆ Gospels - discipleship, spirit filled, prophesying, tomb witness, financial support
- ◆ Acts - Pentecost, prophesying, baptism, Lydia, Priscilla and Aquila
- ◆ Romans 16, 1 Corinthians 11, Philipians 4

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FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE #4

- ◆ **In the New Testament, there is one office that is clearly and exclusively for properly qualified men: elders of a local church**
- ◆ What about deacons/deaconesses?

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SUMMARY: FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

- ◊ #1 Both men and women are created in the image of God and tasked to fulfill the creation mandate.
- ◊ #2 The Holy Spirit gives all the kinds of spiritual gifts to both men and women as He pleases.
- ◊ #3 The significant place of women in the New Covenant
- ◊ #4 In the New Testament, there is one office that is clearly and exclusively for qualified men: elders of a local church

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IDENTIFYING ELDER EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

- ◊ *Elder (presbuteros) Pastor (poimain) Overseer (episkopos)*
  - ◊ 1 Peter 5:1-3
- ◊ Acts 11:30; 13:1; 14:23; 15:2,4,6; 16:4; 20:17-28; 21:18
  - ◊ Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 1:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
    - ◊ 1 Timothy 3:1-2; 4:14; 5:17,19; Titus 1:5-11; James 5:14
      - ◊ 1 Peter 5:1-5; Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24

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IDENTIFYING ELDER EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

- ◊ **Oversight** as stewards of the local church
- ◊ **Gatekeepers** of sound teaching
- ◊ Broad concern for **benevolence**
- ◊ Giving care and direction to **equipping** the whole body to use their gifts
- ◊ Identifying, setting apart, and sending **missionaries or ministers** of various sorts, with follow-up **accountability and care**

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IDENTIFYING ELDER EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

- ❖ Implied **implicit** responsibilities of elders
- ❖ Congregational worship, baptism, Lord's Supper
- ❖ Potential exceptions - 2nd tier and 3rd tier options
- ❖ Concerning "leading" the church

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WHAT NEXT?

- ❖ We will return and consider the two passages most often discussed in relation to the roles of women in the church - 1 Corinthians 14 and 1 Timothy 2

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