

**FAQ's**  
*Frequently Asked Questions*  
**Concerning Elder Selection**

**Q:** Can women serve as elders?

**A:** Yes. We believe the Bible to be very clear on the subject of men and women sharing equally in the task of leadership in the church. Men and women were both created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27) –designed and intended for oneness—unity—and partnership (Genesis 2:18-24).

Although sin destroyed God's original intent for humanity (Genesis 3:16-19) Christ has restored God's original creative intent of oneness. We no longer live under punishment. Through the sacrifice of Christ for our sins we now live under grace—and thus have equal opportunity to become part of God's new community, His church (John 17:11, 20-23). God wants all to experience that oneness in all facets of life, including the church. Paul recognized this fact and wrote that old divisions and hierarchies of race, socio-economic condition, gender, etc., aren't to be tolerated under the New Covenant initiated by Christ (Galatians 3:19-29).

**Q:** But what of other Bible passages that seem to limit the role of women in leadership?

**A:** Passages such as 1 Corinthians 14:33-35 and 1 Timothy 2:11-12 might lead some to that conclusion. However, we must consider what the whole of the Bible says on the subject, and not confine ourselves to isolated statements that may well have simply been addressing specific circumstances for a specific time.

We believe the biblical evidence overwhelmingly supports equality and full partnership and would cite other writings by Paul where he acknowledged that women were indeed serving, leading, praying, and teaching in the early church right alongside the men. For examples, see 1 Corinthians 11:3-13 and Romans 16:1-16.

Ultimately, it is clear throughout Scripture that God pours out His Holy Spirit equally upon men and women. Both are given equal gifts, without regard to gender, and both are called by God to use those gifts in service to Him through His church. To interfere with God's intent concerning the giftedness of individuals in any way would be to squelch the work of His Spirit.

**FAQ's**  
*Frequently Asked Questions*  
**Concerning Elder Selection**

**Q:** Can women serve as elders?

**A:** Yes. We believe the Bible to be very clear on the subject of men and women sharing equally in the task of leadership in the church. Men and women were both created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27) –designed and intended for oneness—unity—and partnership (Genesis 2:18-24).

Although sin destroyed God's original intent for humanity (Genesis 3:16-19) Christ has restored God's original creative intent of oneness. We no longer live under punishment. Through the sacrifice of Christ for our sins we now live under grace—and thus have equal opportunity to become part of God's new community, His church (John 17:11, 20-23). God wants all to experience that oneness in all facets of life, including the church. Paul recognized this fact and wrote that old divisions and hierarchies of race, socio-economic condition, gender, etc., aren't to be tolerated under the New Covenant initiated by Christ (Galatians 3:19-29).

**Q:** But what of other Bible passages that seem to limit the role of women in leadership?

**A:** Passages such as 1 Corinthians 14:33-35 and 1 Timothy 2:11-12 might lead some to that conclusion. However, we must consider what the whole of the Bible says on the subject, and not confine ourselves to isolated statements that may well have simply been addressing specific circumstances for a specific time.

We believe the biblical evidence overwhelmingly supports equality and full partnership and would cite other writings by Paul where he acknowledged that women were indeed serving, leading, praying, and teaching in the early church right alongside the men. For examples, see 1 Corinthians 11:3-13 and Romans 16:1-16.

Ultimately, it is clear throughout Scripture that God pours out His Holy Spirit equally upon men and women. Both are given equal gifts, without regard to gender, and both are called by God to use those gifts in service to Him through His church. To interfere with God's intent concerning the giftedness of individuals in any way would be to squelch the work of His Spirit.