

## 14 SCRIPTURAL REASONS/PROOFS — WOMEN ARE PRECLUDED FROM OFFICES AND POSITIONS OF GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY IN THE CHURCH

1. God's Word prohibits women from being in positions of *authority* or government over men, and even to *teach* men (**1 Tim. 2:12**).
  2. God has ordained that the Church be *governed* (**1 Tim. 5:17**) and *managed* (**1 Tim. 3:1-7**) by elders/overseers. Elders "rule" or govern the local church, and administrate or manage all its affairs. Governmental authority in the Church is a matter of *Divine Order*, not *gifting*.
  3. "Elders," "Overseers," "Shepherds," are all synonymous terms in the Bible referring to the role of Fivefold ministers (**Ac. 20:17,28; 1 Pet. 5:1,2**), which women are prohibited from functioning in (**1 Tim. 2:11,12; 1 Cor. 14:34,35**).
- [*Note:* Since God calls a husband and wife together as one to a ministry function, and the wife is the image (reflection) and glory (tangible manifestation) of her husband (**1 Cor. 11:7**), the wife of a fivefold minister, as a "helpmate suitable" to him in the office/function to which God has appointed him, can reflect some essence of her husband's spiritual gifting, under his authority and authorization. It is on this basis that a few women in the Bible were referred to as "prophetesses" or "deaconesses"—because they stood with their husbands in these functions, or possibly in a very few cases because they from time to time operated a spiritual *gift* or *grace*, as opposed to an office. Nonetheless, the preponderance of Scripture makes it clear that a woman is unauthorized to stand in a fivefold ministry **office**, an **office** of elder, or *any office* of authority in the Church on her own apart from being the reflection and manifestation of her husband.]
4. **1 Tim. 3:1,2** states explicitly that overseers (which by definition also means: elders, governors, shepherds) must be "**men,**" as well as "one-woman" (lit., Greek) [i.e., committed and unflirtatious] "**husbands**" (obviously only men can be *husbands*).
  5. The Church is the family extended; the family is the Church in minuscule (**Eph. 5:22-33, et al.**). The government for both is predicated on the same principles and criteria. Moreover, in both, **men** are to provide the government under the Headship of Christ as delegated leaders (**Eph. 5:22-33; 1 Cor. 11:3**).
  6. Women/wives (plural), individually and collectively are to willingly subordinate themselves under their husbands, and subject themselves to his leadership "**IN THE SAME WAY**" that the Church is in subjection to and subordination under Christ (**Eph. 5:24**).
  7. Of the two human genders, **women** are the "**weakER** (not weak) vessels" (**1 Pet. 3:7**). Of necessity this can only mean women are "weaker" in their physical (body) and psychological (soul) constitution, since the Spirit reveals in God's Word that there are no diversities or distinctions between the two genders in their **spirit-being** (**Gal. 3:28**), the male spirit-being *created* in the Image (Spirit) of God (**Gen. 1:26,27**), and the female gender (Eve) being *fashioned* or *formed* after the Image of the male gender (Adam) (**1 Cor. 11:7**). After the fall, God

established that the wife be subordinate to and in subjection to the government of her husband (**Gen. 3:16**) as a protection (covering) for her against subsequent seduction and deception of the fallen angels (**1 Cor. 11:10**). **It is very important to understand that the term “weaker” does not in any way connote or imply “inferior,” as critics falsely allege is being said in this regard.**

8. Outstanding women of old, despite their respective exploits of great significance, nonetheless manifested their true holiness and godliness by submitting to their own husbands (**1 Pet. 3:5**) and their leadership in every aspect of their lives. Sarah “**obeyed**” her husband, Abraham, and attributed ultimate human honor to him by calling him “lord” (**1 Pet. 3:6**). Moreover, Sarah’s honoring of Abraham, and indeed the pattern represented by all the O.T. Jewish women, establishes the paradigm for the proper relationship of wives to their husbands.

9. Jesus appointed **ONLY men** as apostles (**Mat. 10:2-4**). Historically, the Church’s teachers and theologians have considered what Jesus did during His fleshly life and ministry on the earth to be the example He was establishing for the Church to follow throughout the Church Age. It would seem fairly obvious to most unbiased observers that had Jesus intended for women to function in any of the Fivefold Ministry offices (functions), He would have certainly appointed at least one woman as an Apostle, but He did not.

10. **All** elders, apostles, and deacons (leaders) of the Early Church were **men** (**Ac. 6:1-6; 1 Tim. 3:1-13**).

11. Jesus disbursed His ministry gifts (building, instructive, and governmental gifts) unto **men** exclusively (**Eph. 4:7-16**).

12. Women cannot properly assess the spiritual validity of the prophet’s message, because it can only be assayed by other prophets and women are not anointed or appointed by God to Fivefold ministry offices, of which the prophetic office is one (**1 Cor. 14:26-40**). It was as a result of a failure to properly assess a spiritual message (i.e., emanating from a spirit: Satan) and assaying whether it was inspired by God that the original woman (Eve) was deceived, and the female gender (Eve’s progeny) still has an intrinsic proclivity toward spiritual deception, and needs the spiritual government of her husband to protect her from the deception of the fallen angels (**1 Cor. 11:10**).

13. Women are prohibited from **praying and prophesying** (i.e., spiritual communication) without doing it under the auspices and through the authority of proper spiritual covering [**1 Cor. 11:1-16**].

14. While some women were used by God in O.T. times, **none** were elders or priests. Women were specifically prohibited from the Levitical priesthood. All O.T. elders and priests were exclusively **men** (**Num. 1:1-15; 3:1-15**, et al.). “No passage in either the O.T. or N.T. suggests that women have historically functioned as elders” (Lawrence O. Richards, *Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*, p. 245). The O.T. provides the basis for the N.T. The O.T. was “written for **our example** and for **our instruction** upon whom the ends of the ages have come” (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11). The types and shadows of the O.T. are fulfilled in the N.T.

### Summational Comments:

The sum of the role of women is that they have been anointed and appointed by God as “facilitators” of sorts in the framework and operations of both the family and the church. In the same way that the original woman, Eve, the progenitor and prototype of all women, was fashioned and formed by God out of the riven-side of the original first man, Adam, as a “helpmate suitable” to him, so also the wife is to essentially be a facilitator/helper of all that her husband is called and appointed by God to do and accomplish in his life. It is together, as a single unit composed of a male and a female who have become “one flesh” in Holy Union that God calls, anoints, and appoints a husband and wife to accomplish the particular tasks and assignments of His master-plan and purposes which He has ordained for them.

**Nothing in Scripture is in any way intended to inhibit, hinder, hamper, or impede women** functioning in their vital and indispensable God-ordained role as helpmates to and extensions of their husbands, helpers and workers (in a word: “facilitators”) in the local church, ministers of the Manifestations of the Spirit as the Spirit wills and distributes, and performing all that the Lord Jesus said **all** believers (male and female) would do in the fulfillment of the Great Commission (**Mk. 16:17,18**), and operating to their fullest potential and ability their God-given Motivation Gift. Subjection to Divine Order does not **restrain**, but rather **releases**.

Every believer, men and women alike, have been bestowed with a primary Motivation gift by God, which “energizes,” drives, and directs the general course of their life (**Rom. 12:6-8**). This gift **is** the believers function and the preeminent element forming their unique, God-given personality. **Every** believer, including women, are exhorted by Scripture to diligently employ those gifts and perform those functions according to the measure of faith given them by God, and not to be slack in this regard (**Rom. 12:6; 1 Pet. 4:10**).

The Body of Christ (the local church) is only able to grow and increase, spiritually and physically, commensurate with the proper functioning of each individual part and by that which each member of the Body supplies in service to the whole Body (**Eph. 4:15,16**). The Church desperately needs the proper and complete contribution of the God-given function of *every* believer—whether male or female.

We don’t need any members of the Body of Christ doing **less** in the Church. Rather, we need **everyone** to do **everything** they have been anointed, appointed, and gifted by God to do. In their role as “facilitators” women often are better at “getting things done” at the practical or operational level than men. However, men possessing leadership gifts and attributes, are better visionaries, decision-makers, managers or overseers, and policy-setters. Jesus said the problem was not with the magnitude of the harvest, but that the “*laborers (to reap the harvest) were few*” — the problem is the same today in the Church. The last thing we need to do is to discourage or in any way deter any believers, regardless of their gender, from participation, according to their God-bestowed giftings and appointments, in the accomplishment of God’s purposes. We need **more** faithful and diligent laborers, rather than less.

Since the family is the pattern for the Church, and the government is the same for both, men (the husbands) are to serve the wife (the Church) by providing governmental authority, that is,

leadership, to the Church. Women are not to “stand before” men in a leading or teaching capacity or posture, wherein they are exercising authority over men, either in the family or the Church (**1 Tim. 2:11,12**). Men are to lay down their own life in order to provide Godly surrogate leadership to their own natural wife as well as to the spiritual wife, “the Lamb’s Wife” (**Rev. 21:9**). And, the women are to willingly, voluntarily, and fully subordinate themselves under that leadership, knowing that that leadership has been provided for them by the Lord, and that their natural husband is a “stand-in” for the Lord Jesus Himself, who is the ultimate Husband of the entire Bride of Christ. To put it simpler, both in the Church and in the home, *men* are to **lead**, *women* are to **follow** their leadership.

In a nutshell, all that is being said here is that **every** believer, whether male or female, is under Divine commandment to fully perform all that God has called and enabled him or her to perform, and to accomplish all that he or she has been charged by God to accomplish. God wants every believer to rise to his or her fullest potential in the Lord. However, none of this can be done unless we are under Divine Order. Disorder, which is insubordination to God’s established system of Order, will negate all that we are trying to accomplish even on behalf of God. Every believer will only realize his or her greatest fruitfulness or productivity and reach their maximum potential when they are functioning within the boundaries of the special abilities with which God has created them and in accordance with the proper structural order God has established. **True and effectual authority is engendered by being in subjection to Divine Order.** In a phrase: **Authority derives out of, or is a derivative of, Order!**

The matter of **Babylon**, the manifestation of Satan’s kingdom on Earth, provides further corroboration of these truths:

- *Babylon* is the kingdom of total and complete rebellion against God, His Kingdom, and His Word, Will, and Ways.
- *Babylon* literally means: disorder, confusion; it is replete with “every evil thing” (**Jas. 3:16**).
- *Babylon* is a **WOMAN**—**Rev. 17:5**.
- *Babylon* is a Jezebelic **HARLOT** (ibid)—an adulterous, unprincipled, self-absorbed, wicked, woman in rebellion to her husband’s authority, and unfaithful to her covenant with him.
- In the end, because of her continued rebellion and contempt for God’s authority and established order, *Babylon* brings utter, eternal destruction upon herself.

The preponderance of Scripture establishes that women are precluded from authority roles and positions in the Church. Yet, it must also be acknowledged that throughout history certain outstanding women rose to stations of prominence and functioned in de facto leadership roles among God’s people. Notwithstanding, because of the clear delineation of Scripture with regard to the role of women, these historical aberrations must be viewed as “Divine accommodation” rather than the pattern, and in many cases, “Divine necessity” stemming from wholesale default of men who failed to rise to the occasion when the eyes of the Lord sought to and fro across the Earth looking for Godly men to stand in the gap and to come to the fore to lead His people.