

## The Complementary Roles and Responsibilities of Men and Women in God's Church

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1 Timothy 2:11-14 describes two guidelines for conduct that God has established for the wellbeing of His people. They are both rooted in the creation account of Genesis chapters 1-3.

For the man, God ordains biblical \_\_\_\_\_

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For the woman, God ordains biblical \_\_\_\_\_

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The \_\_\_\_\_ view of leadership recognizes that in the Bible, God has ordained separate but complementary responsibilities for the male and female genders, each uniquely reflecting aspects of the character and will of God.

QUESTION: Does the presence of female prophets in the Old Testament undermine the idea that only men can serve as elders and deacons?

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QUESTION: Is Romans 16:1-2 evidence that women served as deacons in the early New Testament church?

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**WORD FOCUS:** Diakonon (δῆκονον) – feminine singular noun:  
A generic term describing a waiter, servant, or administrator

Unless we can definitively say that *diakonon* here is a \_\_\_\_\_ and not a \_\_\_\_\_, then to appoint female deacons risks going beyond the instruction of scripture.

**UNDERSTAND THIS:** God has not chosen men to lead because men are \_\_\_\_\_. Men and women are equally important to the Lord.

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(see Genesis 1:26-27, Galatians 3:27-29)

One of the reasons that this division of responsibility along gender lines does not have to be problematic is that **Leadership in the church is drastically, fundamentally \_\_\_\_\_ than leadership outside of the church.** (see 1 Peter 5:2-3,

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**Make no mistake about it: The participation of women in gospel ministry is vital to the health of God's church.**

God has given spiritual gifts to EACH believer, not just to men.  
**(1 Corinthians 12:7-11)**

Every person is to use their spiritual gifts for the benefit and health of the body of Christ.  
**(1 Peter 4:10-11)**

Every part of the body of Christ is essential.  
**(1 Corinthians 12:12-16)**

**May the Lord teach us to celebrate God's design in creating men and women gloriously equal in their dignity and purpose, but wondrously different in the roles they play.**