

## **Women's Ministry in the Local Church**

### *Chapter 4: Foundations*

#### **THE TEXTS: 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus**

These pastoral letters deal with the practical theology of pastoral care and oversight of the Church. They give solid principles for the organization and covenant life of the Church, including the role and responsibilities of women.

Each truth builds on the previous one

***Foundational Theme #1: The Gospel – Is the core of Christianity. It's the story of the Bible.***

Women's ministry must:

- 1 *view everything from a biblical perspective (shapes our mindset)*
- 2 *have Christ as the reference point (not womanhood, bc her reference point must be Christ)*

Unless a women's ministry is an overflow of the gospel, women will become hinderers and not helpers in God's church. Those who plan for and implement a women's ministry must be intentional in maintaining a gospel orientation in their hearts and lives.

***Foundational Theme #2: Truth – In every age, the church has faced the battle for truth against the lies of the culture. Today's lie is that there is no such thing as truth. Why does that make it even harder today?***

How can I think biblically about womanhood?

- 1 *become involved in women's ministry in my local church*
- 2 *develop relationships with godly women*
- 3 *give godly women permission to speak truth about womanhood into my life*

This solution presupposes:

- 1 *that the church is equipping women for this ministry*
- 2 *that there is a women's ministry to connect young women to wise older women*

***Foundational Theme #3: Sound Doctrine – Doctrine means teaching. If the teaching isn't sound everything that flows from it is warped and flawed. It's possible to have the core truth of the gospel, yet unsound doctrine.***

Sound doctrine:

- 1 *is the antidote for error*
- 2 *resembles the human body*
- 3 *is healthy doctrine necessary for healthy relationships*
- 4 *is seen in the context of sound preaching and sound church government*

Women's Ministry needs to exist within a framework of sound preaching and teaching if it is to function properly.

#### **Foundational Theme #4: Discipleship**

Spiritual mothering and fathering relationships should characterize the covenant community. This is the substance and the form of true biblical discipleship:

- 1 *It is a balanced blend of sound doctrine taught in the context of covenant relationships.*
- 2 *The church is to equip older women to give of themselves to minister to younger women.*

Caution for over emphasizing a purely relational model of women's ministry or an academic model:

- 1 *A purely relational model magnifies the relationship between women more than God's glory.*
- 2 *An academic model elevates knowledge over the application of the gospel into life.*

#### **Foundational Theme #5: Covenant**

The covenant of grace should characterize all of church life, including women's ministry. Consider these examples of how characteristics of the covenant will influence a women's ministry. (page 63-64)

1. The covenant is: *sovereignly initiated – By God, accomplished in Christ, applied by the Holy Spirit*
  - a. Women's ministry example: *women trusting God to accomplish His purposes*  
II Thessalonians 2: 13-14; I Peter 1: 2,3; Ephesians 1: 3 -14
2. The covenant is: *restorative – Our relationship with God was broken by sin. In Christ, our relationship with God is restored.*
  - a. Women's ministry example: *women who are ambassadors for Christ, restoring and reconciling*  
Ephesians 2: 1 – 4, 12 – 18
3. The covenant is: *relational – In Christ, we are now rightly related to God*
  - a. Women's ministry example: *women's covenant relationships that mirror our relationship with God*  
Ephesians 1: 5; Romans 8: 28 – 30
4. The covenant is: *compassionate – In Christ, God restores us to a right relationship with him because He is merciful (compassionate)*
  - a. Women's ministry example: *women expressing their helper design through practical mercy ministries*  
Ephesians 2: 4
5. The covenant is: *corporate – In Christ, we are a family*
  - a. Women's ministry example: *women who think biblically and live covenantally*  
Ephesians 2: 19 – 22; 4: 1 – 16
6. The covenant is: *generational – One covenant, spanning history, past present and future*
  - a. Women's ministry example: *women who are passing on the legacy of faith to the next generation*  
Genesis 17: 7; Deuteronomy 6: 7; Titus 2: 3-5; II Timothy 1: 5

## THE TASK

In light of the foundational truths woven throughout the Pastoral Letters, and the foundational truths of woman's design and calling, we have at least three tasks:

1. *The role of women must be seen in the context of biblical foundational truths.*
2. *Women's ministry must thoughtfully screen every plan and decision to be sure it is based on Scripture.*
3. *Woman's ministry leaders must pray for the women they lead.*

## THE TOOLS

The concepts in this chapter provide very practical guidelines for designing, planning, and evaluating a women's ministry.

Foundational Themes of the Pastoral Letters should be core values of a women's ministry:

- 1 *gospel*
- 2 *truth*
- 3 *sound doctrine*
- 4 *discipleship*
- 5 *covenant*

Characteristics of the Covenant:

These characteristics provide a grid to study Scripture as well as helpful diagnostic questions for leadership training and event planning:

- 1 *Can we identify characteristics of the covenant when we study Scripture?*
- 2 *Can we identify characteristics of the covenant in our ministry roles?*
- 3 *What characteristics of the covenant are driving our ministry plans?*

Biblical Foundations for Womanhood resources:

- 1 Topic: *The content and context of biblical discipleship*  
Book: *Heirs of the Covenant (chapters 1-2)*
- 2 Topic: *A discipleship perspective of Titus 2:3-5*  
Book: *The Legacy of Biblical Womanhood (chapter 4)*
- 3 Topic: *A practical application of the covenant*  
Book: *Heirs of the Covenant*  
Book: *Your Home a Place of Grace*
- 4 Topic: *Characteristics of the covenant*  
Book: *The Legacy of Biblical Womanhood (page 202-205)*
- 5 Topic: *Woman's creation design as a helper, and her redemptive calling to be a life-giver*  
Book: *The Legacy of Biblical Womanhood (chapters 1-10)*

