

# ***"A Woman's Place in the Church"***

## **Our church's very clear statement:**

A woman's right to ministry  
A woman's place of leadership  
A woman's worthiness for ordination

## **Guiding principles?**

Biblical faithfulness  
Theological consistency  
Historical practice  
Experiential honesty

## **Issues to consider:**

The importance of order  
The need for knowledge  
The value of priorities

## **A mistake we cannot afford to make:**

The battle we fight is real  
The need for leadership is great  
The opportunities available are immense

## **Getting the issues straight:**

We are about service, not authority  
We require unity, not credit  
We honor Christ, not the Christian  
We need prayer, not performance

***Thank God for every woman leader in our church!!!***

### **1 Corinthians 14:33-35**

33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

As in all the congregations of the saints, 34 women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says. 35 If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.

### **1 Timothy 2:11-15**

11 A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. 12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. 15 But women will be saved through childbearing-if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

### **Acts 2:16-18**

16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 "In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams.  
18 Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.

### **Galatians 3:26-29**

26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

### **Acts 21:8-9**

8 Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven. 9 He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.

### **Judges 4:4-6**

4 Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. 5 She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came to her to have their disputes decided.

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The Church of the Nazarene supports the right of women to use their God-given spiritual gifts within the church, affirms the right of women to be elected and appointed to places of leadership within the Church of the Nazarene, including the offices of both elder and deacon.

The purpose of Christ's redemptive work is to set God's creation from from the curse of the Fall. Those who are "in Christ are new creations (2Corinthians 5:17). In this redemptive community, no human being is to be regarded as inferior on the basis of social status, race, or gender.

Acknowledging the apparent paradox created by Paul's instruction to Timothy (1 Timothy 2:11-12) and to the church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 14:33-32), we believe interpreting these passages as limiting the role of women presents serious conflicts with specific passages of scripture that commend female participation in spiritual leadership roles (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:17-18; 21:8-9; Romans 16:1, 3, 7; Philippians 4:2-3), and violates the spirit and practice of the Wesleyan-holiness tradition. Finally, it is incompatible with the character of God presented throughout Scripture, especially as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.

***"You Asked for It" Series***

September 18	"Safe in the Arms of God"
September 25	"Jesus Loves the Little Children"
October 2	"When Discouragement Takes Over"
October 9	"Christian Families in a Secular World"
October 16	"Keeping a Holy Day"
October 23	"A Woman's Place in the Church"
October 30	"Israel and the People of God"
November 6	Revelation #1 Guarding God's Truth
November 13	Revelation #2 Facing God's Wrath
November 20	Revelation #3 Knowing God's Plan

# Sermon Notes

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***Acts 2:16-18***

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