

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

We need to receive & encourage women who have been chosen & anointed by God.

EXAMPLES OF WOMEN MINISTERS LISTED BY PAUL IN ROMANS 16.

1. SISTER PHOEBE, Rom.16:1

“Who is a servant of the church at Cenchrea,” KJV & NIV

“Who is a DIAKONOS (or deacon, or minister) of the church at Cenchrea”

“A deaconess of the church at Cenchreae” RSV & PHILIPPS

“Who holds office in the church at Cenchreae,” NEB

(History records that in 112 AD, the Roman governor of Bithynia (northern Turkey today) sent a letter to the Emperor about the Christians, and mentioned that he had tortured two of their women whom the Christians called Deaconesses. The early church had many women deacons.)

2. PRISCILLA AND AQUILA, Rom.16:3-4 “My fellow workers in Christ”

- First mentioned in Acts 18:26 where they discipled a preacher named Apollos

- Pricilla, the wife, was mentioned first, suggesting that she had the greater ministry.

- “Also greet the church that is in their house” This phrase suggests that Priscilla & her husband were the leaders, or pastors, of a church.

3. ANDRONICUS AND JUNIAS, Rom.16:7

- Junias was a female name. They were probably a husband and wife, like Pricilla and Aquila.

“Who are outstanding among the apostles.” Paul called both of them apostles.

WOMEN WERE ALSO CALLED TO LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:

1. ADAM AND EVE – “God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule...’” Genesis 1:28. Both Adam & Eve were called to be rulers.

2. MIRIAM, THE PROPHETESS – In Mic.6:4 God said, “I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.” Miriam was one of the leaders of Israel, called a prophetess in other scriptures.

3. DEBORAH - “Now Deborah, a prophetess, was judging Israel at that time,” Judges 4:4.

- Deborah was the judge or leader of her nation, anointed by God to lead them to victory!

4. QUEEN ESTHER- She not only saved the Jews from genocide, her influence also paved the way for Mordecai and other Jewish men to step up to positions of leadership in the Persian Empire.

WOMEN ARE OFTEN GREAT LEADERS OF THE MODERN-DAY CHURCH

THE METHODISTS was led by John Wesley. He often appointed women leaders, and said, “Since God uses women in the conversion of sinners, who am I that I would withstand God?”

THE SALVATION ARMY was started by both William and Catherine Booth. They had many lady preachers and leaders. William Booth said, “Some of my best men are women!”

THE FOURSQUARE CHURCH was founded by a woman evangelist, Aimee Simple McPherson

BILLY GRAHAM- his family has many great preachers. Billy Graham and the entire family agreed that Anne (Billy Graham's daughter) is the best preacher in the family. Better than Billy Graham!

WORLD MISSIONS:

- By the year 1900, over 40 missionary organizations were led by women
- 2/3rds of all the foreign missionaries to China were women.
- 80 % of the leaders of the house churches in China are women. Over 250,000 women!
- 90 % of the cell group leaders (deacons) in Pastor Yonggi Cho's church are women. That is 45,000 of the 50,000 cell group leaders in the world's largest church!

WHY SHOULD WOMEN BE RESPECTED IN MINISTRY?

1) WE ONLY RECEIVE FROM MINISTRIES WHICH WE RESPECT

- Jesus' ministry was not respected in Nazareth, so they could not receive His blessings, Mk.6:1-6.
- A prophet (or prophetess) and a righteous man (or woman) will only bless those who will receive their ministry, Mt.10:41, Lk.24:11.
- The Body of Christ will be weak and immature when all the members of the body are not recognized and functioning properly, 1 Cor.12:18-21. In most churches, 60%+ of the members are women: empower them, and they will get a lot done!

2) WE NEED TO HONOR OUR SPIRITUAL MOTHERS

- In Exodus 20:12, the 5th of the 10 commandments of Moses is that we honor our father *and* mother.
- Honoring our natural and spiritual mothers gives us a great promise, Eph.6:2. We will abide in our inheritance (naturally and spiritually) if we honor those who gave it to us, Prov.6:20-23, Is. 51:1-2.
- Many Heroes of the Faith, who will rule and reign in God's kingdom, are women: Heb.11:11 (Sarah), Heb.11:23 (Jochebed), Heb.11:31 (Rahab) & others, Heb.11:34-35
- Victory does not always come through spiritual fathers, but sometimes through spiritual mothers, Jud.5:6-8.

Conclusion: God appoints & anoints many women for various leadership positions. We should help them to nurture their callings, and receive from their growing ministries, so that every Christian can properly contribute towards the maturing of the Church, Eph.4:15-16.