

## **MALE VERSUS FEMALE -- “EQUAL VALUE, SOMETIMES DIFFERENT ROLES”**

Biblical teachings regarding church roles:

- 1) Women are equal in value to men, and there is no distinction in terms of importance to God (Gal 3:26-29; Gen 1:27, 5:2; Joel 2:29).
- 2) Elders should lead the church; Elders should be men (I Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). Elders should be loving, servant leaders (Mt 20:25-28; Jn 13:1-17).
- 3) Under the authority of Eldership, women probably can participate in any role or position, including teaching, leading, serving, etc. Following are examples of women prophets, leaders, teachers, servants, deacons, etc.:

### Old Testament

- Deborah (Judges 4 & 5) -- prophetess who led Israel
- Miriam, sister to Aaron (Ex 15:20) -- prophetess
- Huldah (2 Ki 22:14) -- prophetess
- Noadiah (Neh 6:14) -- prophetess
- Isaiah's wife (Is 8:3) -- prophetess

### New Testament

- Priscilla (Acts 18:1-3; Rm 16:3; I Cor 16:19; 2 Tim 4:19) -- teacher, and helped lead a house church
- Daughters of Philip (Acts 21:9) -- four daughters who prophesied
- Phoebe (Rm 16:1-2) -- female deacon; likely person who delivered Paul's letter to the Romans
- Tabitha (a.k.a. Dorcas) (Acts 9:36-41) -- extremely charitable servant
- Lydia (Acts 16:14-15) -- provided hospitality to Paul
- Tryphena & Tryphost (Rm 16:12) -- women who worked hard in the Lord
- Eyodia & Syntyche (Phil 4:2-3) -- fellow workers with Paul
- Nympha -- hosted a house church
- Anna (Lk 2:36-38) -- prophetess
- Mary of Bethany (Lk 10:38-42; Jn 11:1-46; Mk 14:3-9) -- devoted follower/disciple of Christ

- A number of women followed and supported Jesus (Lk 8:2-3, 23:49,55, 24:22-24; Mt 27:55; Mk 15:40-41)
- Women were an important part of early New Testament church (Acts 1:12-14, 5:14, 8:5, 12, 17:4, 12)
- Women prophesied and prayed in church (I Cor 11:5)
- Female Deacons (or at least wives of male deacons) (I Tim 3:11)