

Women Helping Women in the Church

RESOURCES:

Women's Ministry in the Local Church

Leadership for Women in the Church

Women's Ministry Training and Resource Guide (a notebook that includes leader's guides for above books, small group model for Titus 2 ministry, training for Titus 2 leaders.)

FOCUS: How does a women's ministry help the male leadership care for the female sheep?

- Isaiah 40:11: He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.
- Acts 20:28–29: Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock . . .
- Zechariah 11:17: "Woe to my worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock!"
- Why does some care need to be gender-specific?

True Womanhood

1. Genesis 1:27: So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

2. Genesis 2:18: The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him"

- The Hebrew word translated helper in Genesis 2:18 is *ezer*. In the Old Testament this word often refers to God as our Helper.

(He defends) Exodus 18:4: [Moses] said, "My father's God was my helper; he saved me from the sword of Pharaoh."

(He sees and cares for suffering) Psalm 10:14: But you, O God, do see trouble and grief; you consider it to take it in hand. The victim commits himself to you; you are the helper of the fatherless.

(He supports) Psalm 20:2: May he send you help from the sanctuary and grant you support from Zion.

(He protects) Psalm 33:20: We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

(He delivers from distress) Psalm 70:5: Yet I am poor and needy; come quickly to me, O God. You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay.

(He rescues) Psalm 72:12–14: For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.

(He comforts) Psalm 86:17: You, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

3. The Fall: Genesis 3:1,6 [Satan] said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” . . . she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

4. The Gospel: Genesis 3:15 The Lord God said to the serpent . . . “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” Genesis 3:15

5. Manhood and womanhood redeemed: Genesis 3:20 Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

- Eve means life-giver

<u>Helper/Life-Giver</u>	<u>Hinderer/Life-taker</u>
Exodus 18:4: Defends	attacks
Psalm 10:14: Sees, cares for oppressed	indifferent, unconcerned for oppressed
Psalm 20:2: Supports	weakens
Psalm 33:20: Shields, protects	leaves unprotected
Psalm 70:5: Delivers from distress	causes distress
Ps. 72:12–14: Rescues poor, weak, needy	ignores poor, weak, needy
Psalm 86:17: Comforts	causes discomfort

- Woman’s helper design and life-giving mission can be summarized as **community and compassion.**

6. How does our design and calling inform our ministry as women in God’s church?

Biblical Apologetic for Women’s Ministry

(1) 1 Timothy 2:9–15: Ecclesiastical submission

(2) 1 Timothy 3:11: Compassion

(3) 1 Timothy 5:1–16: Community

(4) Titus 2:3–5: Gender-specific discipleship

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine . . .

Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

(5) 2 Timothy 3:1–9, 14–16: Scripture

7. Community

Our relationships in God's family are not based on commonality of gene pool, geography, interests, age, or circumstances. They are based on grace—God's grace in adopting us into His family. Our commonality is rooted in our origin and our purpose. We have been born of His grace and redeemed for his glory. If anything less binds us together, the integrity of community life is compromised. *Women's Ministry in the Local Church, p. 100*

8. Compassion

A redeemed woman's sanctified female instincts cause her to "see" the troubled and grieving, even if they are suffering in silence. Her helper heart pities the weak and needy, and her helper hands find ways to rescue and comfort . . . Functioning under the oversight of those who are in positions of leadership in God's church, she does what she was created to do. *Women's Ministry in the Local Church, p. 88*

Prayer . . . Prevention . . . Preparation . . . Protocol . . . Prayer

Helping Questions

- What will it mean to glorify God in this situation/relationship?
- What will it mean to bring this situation/relationship under the authority of God's Word rather than my feelings?
- Are there any ways I am being a life-taker in this situation/relationship?
- What will it mean to be a life-giver in this situation/relationship?
- How can my sisters help me, and how can I help them, to be a life-giver?

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