



CROSSPOINTE CHURCH

WOMEN IN MINISTRY AT CROSSPOINTE CHURCH

“In the beginning, God created us, male and female, in God’s image” (Genesis 1:27). Scripture is clear in many passages that there is no difference between a man and woman in dignity or value (Galatians 3:27-29). There are also Scriptural differences in how these roles are expressed in both the home (Ephesians 5:21-27) and in the church.

Historically, roles of men and women have taken on supplementary meanings or practices that are closely dependent on social norms in the surrounding culture. As a result, women have most often been placed in lower positions or denied a voice or position of authority despite that Scripture does not prescribe such treatment. Through more recent cultural changes, women have clearly shown professional aptitude in C-level executive positions, business management, STEM industries, and politics. Each of these represent areas once dominated by men. Even though a majority of these positions may still be held by men, the normative culture around us (regardless of feminist agendas) has also accepted the relevancy and value of women in such positions. Let’s first take an honest look at how Scripture supports women in ministry roles.

Women and Teaching in the Church: While it is clear that Paul, in the Epistles, seems to be discouraging the circumstances where women would be teaching men in the churches he was addressing in the first century, we believe it was primarily due to the appearance it would give that these women would be seen as exercising spiritual authority over those men they would be teaching. We believe that those restrictions were mandated by the specific circumstances of the particular churches being addressed at that time.

Women and Other Roles in the Church: We affirm that there seems to be no differentiation of gender in the distribution of gifts and talents other than those which may uniquely equip one to serve as an overseer. We further affirm the variety of essential and vital roles in which women have participated as recorded in Scripture, i.e., a judge, military leader, worship leader, prophet, deacons, teachers, house church hosts, and prayer champions. Crosspointe Church encourages all women to exercise

their God-given gifts fully in serving Jesus in and through our fellowship here and around the world.

Pastor: The term pastor is only used one time in the New Testament (Ephesians 4:11) and not as a title. The term means "shepherd." Pastors are responsible to teach the word of God, shepherd those under their care, lead them to spiritual maturity, and protect the flock from false beliefs. In the N.T. the words *pastor*, *elder*, and *overseer* can be used interchangeably, with each word providing a different emphasis on what contribution and authority the leaders make to the Body of Christ. At Crosspointe women can pastor/shepherd under the authority of the overseer.

Overseer: It is in this unique role where we believe there is a Scriptural distinction. Paul states clearly that only men should serve as an overseer. In both 1 Timothy 3:2 and Titus 1:6, Paul includes in the list of requirements that elders/overseer must be "a man of one woman." In those same passages, he also referred to "fathers" when he lists as one of the requirements that an overseer must manage his own household well. It should also be noted that when Jesus Himself selected the first leaders of the church, He limited those selections to those of a male gender. While some of the limitations on roles in the early church may have been church-specific or cultural, we believe this particular directive throughout scriptural examples is indeed supracultural and normative for all times and circumstances. Therefore, the senior pastor at Crosspointe and lead pastors at campuses will serve as overseers and will be men.

Since all teachers, both male and female in all settings—including worship services and small groups—teach under the authority of the overseer of Crosspointe Church, we believe no further gender restriction is necessitated. We believe some of God's most gifted teachers are women, and both men and women can benefit from the insights and study that they provide.

We also believe that it is important that the men of our church not abdicate their responsibility to use their own God-given gifts of teaching and thereby contribute to a feminized perception of the church that is only for women and children. It has been proven in all contexts of society, culture, family, and psychology that male involvement in the spiritual life of his family has a significant positive influence on spiritual growth. So with the only exception being a Scriptural basis for the Overseer position, we wish to encourage participation in ministry among both men and women based on the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given them. This means both men and women are treated with dignity and value. Likewise, this means that consideration for positions in the church,

other than overseer, will be based on the needs of the church, and upon each candidate merits and not influenced by a preference solely based on gender.