



Women in Ministry

- **Introduction**

- Touches elements of identity, personhood, and calling
- Wide range of beliefs and practices
- Need to sit under the “whole council” of scriptures
 - Some elements are not entirely clear

- **History**

- Before sin
 - Male and female created in God's image; both blessed; equal partners (Gen 1)
 - Man and woman made of the “same stuff” but not the same (Gen 2)
 - Woman as a “suitable helper”
 - Order of creation
- After sin entered
 - Curse narrative – descriptive NOT prescriptive (Gen 3)
 - 1st Century Judaism
 - Birth of boys celebrated; birth of girls lamented
 - Women considered possessions
 - Not allowed to teach or even touch the Torah
 - Prayer of thanksgiving
- Fullness of time
 - Jesus came to reverse the curse (Eph 1)
 - Temple courts
 - Gentiles, women, sons of Israel, priests, high priest (holy of holies)
 - Breaking down barriers (Matt 27:50-51, Eph 2:13-14, 1 Pet 2:9, Gal 3:28)
 - Pentecost – Holy Spirit poured out on both men and women in fulfillment of Joel

- **In the Church**

- Paul's writings are difficult (2 Pet 3:16)
- 1 Tim 2:11-15
 - Translations: “I am not permitting”, “usurping authority”, submitted to what?
 - Meant for a situation or for all time?
 - Acts 2, Acts 18:24-26, Rom 16
 - False teaching affecting women in Ephesus (1 Tim 1:3, 2 Tim 3:6, 1 Tim 5:15)
- 1 Cor 14:34-35
 - Exclude women's speech in church for all time?
 - Examples of tongues and prophecy (1 Cor 12)
 - Women had little experience and were very zealous
 - Outsiders wouldn't know what to make of women's freedom in the worship service – would appear shameful
 - Is everything universal?
 - Titus 1:12-13, 1 Tim 5:23, 1 Tim 4:13
- Look at things in a new way
 - Example of inclusion of the Gentiles (Acts 15)