
WOMEN IN MINISTRY

From Creation to
Contemporary
Christianity

Santha Kumari Mondithoka
Academic Dean, HITHA



“The fact that I am a woman does not make me a different kind of Christian, but the fact that I am a Christian does make me a different kind of woman.” ELISABETH ELLIOT



"I wonder if you sisters fully understand the greatness of your gifts and talents and how all of you can achieve the 'highest place of honor' in the Church and in the world. One of your unique, precious, and sublime gifts is your femininity, with its natural grace, goodness, and divinity. Femininity is not just lipstick, stylish hairdos, and trendy clothes. It is the divine adornment of humanity. It finds expression in your qualities of your capacity to love, your spirituality, delicacy, radiance, sensitivity, creativity, charm, graciousness, gentleness, dignity, and quiet strength. It is manifest differently in each girl or woman, but each of you possesses it. Femininity is part of your inner beauty."

James E. Faust, "Womanhood: The Highest Place of Honor"

To submit to anyone less than Christ is difficult in a marriage. Yet it is Christ who commands women to be submissive to their sinful, fallible husbands. In this sense Christ is the silent partner of the marriage. It is hard for a wife to submit when she disagrees with her husband. But when she knows her submission is an act of obedience to Christ and honors Christ, it is much less difficult.

R. C. Sproul

"Women of God can never be like women of the world. The world has enough women who are tough; we need women who are tender. There are enough women who are coarse; we need women who are kind. There are enough women who are rude; we need women who are refined. We have enough women of fame and fortune; we need more women of faith. We have enough greed; we need more goodness. We have enough vanity; we need more virtue. We have enough popularity; we need more purity"

Margaret D. Nadauld

Too many women have too much leisure time for their own good. They have time for criticism, gossip, faultfinding, and complaining. They have time for idle games and lay too much attention to things of the flesh. There are other women who have too little time for the enduring things of life. They are too busy flitting about doing this and that. They have great activity and much doing, but they lack time for building Christian characters. Both kinds of women — the too-idle and the too-busy need to take time for meditation and quiet repose in prayer to God. They need time to cultivate their souls that in turn they may cultivate their children's lives.

Billy Graham

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course presents an introduction for women's ministry and for women in ministry. It equips the women for effective ministry in the church, at the work place and in the neighborhood. From Creation to Contemporary Christianity, the Role of women in the Mission of God and the Ministry of the Church is taught in detail from biblical, theological, historical, cultural and practical perspectives. Course covers the expositional and biographical studies of many prominent women in the Scriptures, who played a significant role in the Salvation History. The content of the course will provide inspiration, information, instruction, and interaction for the women to equip themselves for effective ministry in their homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, Church and the Society at large.

The course is designed to equip those who desire to be:

- Women Ministry Directors in the Local Church
- Teachers at Women's Retreats
- Preachers for Women's Conferences
- Women Bible Study Leaders
- Workplace Witnesses and Ministers
- Women Mentors
- Women Counselors
- Prayer Warriors and Intercessors
- Fasting Prayer Group Initiators
- Active Participants in the Ministry of the Local Church

RATIONALE

Women today are given the opportunities to minister in the local church, para-church, and mission organizations in different capacities. 20th Century had witnessed the impact of women in almost all areas of Christian Ministry and Mission.

On the other hand, the cultural currents of the 21st century (materialism, individualism, feminism, relativism and postmodernism) have confused Christian women in the areas of/ relation to their roles and identity. A sound theology of biblical womanhood, wifhood and motherhood is neither understood by the pews nor articulated from the pulpits. This course equips the women to explore these things in the entirety of biblical revelation, and to apply these truths to build their personal, family and ministry lives.

It will also prepare them to cater to the needs of vast growing women's ministry in the congregations- mentoring and discipling women in the Church, and to evangelize the women from other faiths.

This course also seeks to help the student to develop her own beliefs about the role of women in ministry, and to learn how men and women can work together in ministry. The women will also be able to appraise her own personal and spiritual qualifications to minister effectively in the ministry to which she is called.

The Curriculum: The curriculum falls under five major categories -

- Biblical Studies
- Theological Studies
- Historical Studies
- Women Studies
- Ministry Practicum

Module-I

Bible Study Methods

- A. Storyline of the Bible
- B. Five Methods of Bible-in-take
- C. Mastering the five steps
- D. Understanding Biblical genres

Module-2

Theological Studies

- A. Creeds of the Christendom
- B. Revelation of God
- C. Inspiration of the Bible
- D. Humans- God's Image bearers
- E. Biblical Theology of Marriage and family
- F. Biblical Theology of Womanhood, Wifhood and Motherhood

Module-3

Women Studies

- A. Women in World Religions
- B. Uniqueness of women in Creation and in the Community of God
- C. Theology and Philosophy of Women Ministry
- D. Vision and Mission of Women Ministry
- E. Two/four views on Women in the Ministry
- F. From Creation to Contemporary Christianity- An Overview of Women's Ministry
- G. Adam's Rib-Back Bone of the Church - Role of woman in a happy home and a Healthy Church
- H. Christian Women in the 21st Century- Challenges and Opportunities

Module-4

Women of the Old Testament (From Creation to Christ)

- A. In the Patriarchal Narratives
- B. In Exodus and wilderness wanderings
- C. During the conquest
- D. In the times of Judges and Kings
- E. In the Exilic and Post-exilic times
- F. In the Inter-testamental Period

Module- 5

Women in the NT (From Cross of Christ to Contemporary Christianity)

- A. Women in the Gospels
- B. Women in Acts
- C. Women in the Epistles
- D. Memorial to a Woman's love - An Expositional Bible Study on Mary of Bethany

Module-6 Women in Church History

- A. Women in Early Christianity (to 325 AD)
- B. Women in the Middle Ages (325-1500AD)
- C. Women in the Age of the Reformation (1500-1650AD)
- D. Women in Revival History (from 1650AD)
- E. Women in Modernity and Post Modernity
- F. Women in the 20th Century
- G. Women in Contemporary Christianity

Module-7 Evangelism and Discipleship of Women

- A. Essentials of Gospel
- B. World Views
- C. Evangelizing People/Women of Other Faiths
- D. Discipleship and Mentoring
- E. From Jerusalem to India - An overview of Women in World Missions
- F. Impacting Google Generation Girls for Christ

Module-8

Preaching Biblical Sermons

- A. Elements of Preaching
- B. Observing and understanding the Text
- C. From Text to Sermon
- D. Types of Sermons
- E. Preaching with conviction and passion

Module-9

Ministries of Women in the Local Church

- A. Starting Women Ministry in the Local Church
- B. Prayer Ministry of Women in the Local Church
- C. How to start a Bible Study Cell in the Neighborhood
- D. Initiating Fasting Prayer Cell Groups
- E. Women Mentoring other women- Titus 2 Model

Module-10

Ministry Practicum

1. Group Bible Study - Leading and Report
2. Sermon Preparation and Presentation- Report
3. Field Assignment on Using Apologetics in Evangelism
4. Women Ministry plan for the Local Church

READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

1. Reading Report on the whole Bible (in Sections)
2. Required Readings from the Text-books
3. Class Participation, Quizzes and Exams
4. Character Studies of Women - Five from the Old Testament
5. Character Studies of Women - Five From the New Testament
6. Women in the Church History - Five Biographical Studies
7. Special Assignments for Some Modules

Text books:

1. Saucy, Robert. L., Tenelshof, Judith. K., *Women and Men in Ministry- A Complementary Perspective.*, Chicago: Moody Press, 2001
2. Lutz, Lorry., *Women as Risk-Takers for God*, Secunderabad: OM Books, 2001
3. Grenz, Stanley J., Denise Muir Kjezbo., *Women In the Church-A Biblical Theology of Women in Ministry*, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1995
4. Beck, James R., Blomberg, Craig L., *Two Views on Women in Ministry*, Secunderabad, OM Books, 2001
5. Fee, Gordon D., Start, Douglas., *How to Read the Bible for All its Worth*, Hyderabad: Authentic, 2015
6. Geisler, Norman. L., *A Popular Survey of the New Testament*, Hyderabad: Authentic, 2007
7. Talley, David., *The Story of the Old Testament*, San Bernardino, Reclaimed Publishing, 2014
8. Syswerda, Jean. E., *Women of Faith Study Bible-NIV*, Michigan, Zondervan, 2001

Reference books:

1. Hosier, Helen Kooiman., *100 Christian Women Who Changed the 20th Century*, Michigan: Fleming H. Revell, 2000
2. Porter, Carol., Hamel, Mike., *Women's Ministry Handbook- A Comprehensive Guide to Reaching, Teaching, and Training Women in the Local Church*, Colorado: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1992

3. Derek., Tidball, Dianne., *The Message of Women Creation, Grace and Gender*, England: InterVarsity Press, 2012
4. Sumner, Sarah, Ph.D., *Men and Women in the Church*, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2003
5. Mickelsen, Alvera., *Women, Authority & Bible*, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1986
6. Jaynes, Sharon., *The Power of Woman's Words*, Eugene- Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2007
7. DeMoss, Nancy Leigh., *Biblical Womanhood in the Home.*, Illinois: Crossway Books, 2002
8. Clouse. Bonnidell., Clouse, Robert. G., *Women In Ministry- Four Views*, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1989
9. Karssen, Gien., *Her Name is Woman- Book 1 & 2* Colorado: Navpress, 1992
10. Doriani, Don., *Women and Ministry-What the Bible Teaches*, Illinois: Crossway Books, 2003
11. Evans, Mary. J., *Woman in the Bible- An overview of all the crucial passages on women's roles*, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1983
12. Brown, Ann., *Apology to Women- Christian images of the Female Sex*, England, InterVarsity Press, 1991
13. SC Monteiro, Evelyn., MM Gutzler, Antoinette., *Ecclesia of Women in Asia- Gathering the Voices of the Silenced*, Delhi: Indian Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (ISPCK), 2005
14. James, Custis Carolyn., *When Life and Beliefs Collide- How knowing God Makes a Difference*, Michigan, Zondervan, 2001

1. Women of the Word- Belief Statement

Elisabeth Elliot in her work “Let Me Be a Woman” says, “The fact that I am a woman does not make me a different kind of Christian, but the fact that I am a Christian does make me a different kind of woman.” We are called to be women. Our Femininity is not our choice, but God’s perfect divine plan and design. In these days of cultural pressures and conflicting demands as women, we tend to neglect who we are and the purpose of our creation and the ways to fulfill our creation mandate.

The “Women of the Word belief statement” is a positive value statement about the 12 aspects of womanhood that impact us most. From family and gender to ministry and influence, from our responsibility to those we love most, to our responsibility to women across the globe, this statement explains what we really believe about the worth, significance, and opportunities of women.

These 12 aspects of biblical womanhood¹ are the counter-cultural convictions that guide us as we strive to become women after his own heart. They reveal our Theology of Womanhood, wifehood, motherhood, marriage and family.

1. **Identity:** we believe that every woman has been Created in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1:27; Ps 139:13-16; Isa 43:6-7; Matt 19:4-9; Eph 5:31-33), and this constitutes her identity and gives her worth and dignity.
2. **Gender:** We believe that gender is God-given, not socially constructed or self-determined; that gender distinctions are rooted in creation and manifested in biological differences, transcending social customs and cultural stereotypes; that being created as a woman is an essential aspect of our identity (Gen 2:18-25; Matt 19:4; Mark 10:6).
3. **Roles:** We believe that God has given women and men distinctive roles within the family and the church; that these roles were intentionally created and given prior to human sin; that according to God’s design, these roles are interdependent but not interchangeable (Gen 2:18-25; 1 Cor 11:3, 8-9, 11-12; 1 Tim 2:12-14).
4. **Marriage:** We believe that marriage was created by God as a covenant between one man and one woman for the purpose of communicating the relationship between God Himself and His people; that women are called to honor God in marriage by submitting to their own husbands voluntarily and purposefully (Gen 2:24-25; 1 Cor 7:1-5; Eph 5:22-33; Col 3:18-19; 1 Pet 3:1-7; Heb 13:4). Called to live out the beauty of the Gospel
5. **Family:** We believe that family as the first institution created by God is a church in miniature and that families have redemptive purposes. Family is a reflection of the Trinity. We believe children are the heritage we receive from the Lord and the legacy that we leave behind in the world. We believe that investing in the next generation is every woman’s task;

that women are uniquely gifted to nurture, teach, and train children; (Deut 6:1-25; Prov 31:21, 28; 2 Tim 1:5; Titus 2:5).

6. **Singleness:** We believe that unmarried women are fully valued in Christ; that by their chaste and set-apart lives they may especially devote themselves to service in the Kingdom of God during either their season or lifetime of singleness (1 Cor 7:4-35). They are also ezers (suitable Helpers) to the larger body of Christ.
7. **Home:** Home is a Church in miniature, and future of the Church is being shaped in the homes. We believe that every woman is called to make her home a place of service and that such service is ultimately to Christ (Prov 31:27; 1 Tim 5:14; Titus 2:3-5).
8. **Church:** We believe that women are Integral to the Church, the body of Christ. Concerning a woman's sphere of service, within biblical guidelines her opportunities are boundless (1 Tim 2:11-14; Titus 2:3-5).
9. **Ministry:** We believe that every Christian woman is called to fulfill the Great Commission and has the opportunity for significant service in the Kingdom of God; that all service to Christ according to biblical guidelines is significant to the Lord; that women are exhorted to instruct and mentor other women (Titus 2:3-5).
10. **Education** – We believe that every woman is worth the investment of educational opportunities; that women as created in God's image not only can learn but should learn and have access to literacy, skills training, and vocational instruction; that the God-called woman warrants the investment of theological education and preparation for service to Christ according to biblical guidelines (Deut 31:12; 2 Tim 1:13-14; 2:15; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Pet 3:15).
11. **Influence** – We believe a woman has particular capacity for effecting societal change and preserving moral values through her influence in the home and family and her involvement in community decisions, social action, and public policy (Exod 2:1-10; 2 Chr 22:10-12; Matt 5:13-16; 25:34-40; 1 Tim 2:1-2).
12. **Sanctity of Life** – We believe that every woman's life, regardless of culture or condition, has dignity; that whether unborn or aging, impoverished or privileged, she is worth protecting; that the life and dignity of every woman must be defended (Ps 139:13-16; Matt 18:2-5).

