

**Scriptural References: Males only for Elder or Pastor roles?**

**1. 1 Timothy 2:11-12 (ESV)**

"Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise **authority** over a man; rather, she is to remain **quiet**."

**2. 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 (ESV)**

"The women should keep **silent** in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in **submission**, as the Law also says. If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church."

**3. Ephesians 5:22-24 (ESV)**

"Wives, **submit** to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should **submit** in everything to their husbands."

**4. 1 Timothy 3:1-2 (ESV)**

"The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, **he** desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the **husband** of one wife..."

- The use of "he" and the phrase "husband of one wife" is often interpreted as indicating that only men can serve as overseers (pastors).

**5. Titus 1:5-6 (ESV)**

"This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—if anyone is above reproach, the **husband** of one wife..."

**Scriptural References: Females in leadership roles within the Church:**

**1. Galatians 3:28 (ESV)**

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, **for you are all one in Christ Jesus**."

**2. Romans 16:1-2 (ESV)**

"I commend to you our **sister Phoebe, a servant** of the church at Cenchreae, that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well."

### 3. Acts 2:17-18 (ESV)

"And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your **sons and your daughters** shall prophesy..."

### 4. Deborah (Judges 4-5)

Deborah served as a judge and prophetess in Israel, leading the nation and providing counsel. Her story illustrates that women can hold significant leadership positions.

### 5. Acts 18:26 (ESV)

"He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him and **explained to him** the way of God more accurately."

### 6. 1 Corinthians 11:5 (ESV)

"But every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head..."

### 7. 1 Timothy 3:11 (ESV)

"Their **wives likewise** must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things."

## When Studying Scriptures:

### 1. Context

- **Historical Context:** Understand the time period, cultural practices, and historical events relevant to the text.
- **Literary Context:** Examine the surrounding verses and chapters to grasp the author's intent and the flow of the narrative.

### 2. Genre

- Recognize the type of literature (e.g., poetry, narrative, epistle, prophecy) as it affects interpretation. Different genres have different rules for understanding.

### 3. Translation

- Be aware of the translation you are using. Different translations can vary in language and interpretation. Consider comparing multiple translations for clarity.

### 4. Language

- Understand that the Bible was originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Knowledge of key words in their original languages can provide deeper insights.

## 5. Theological Themes

- Identify overarching themes (e.g., grace, redemption, covenant) and how they connect across different books of the Bible.

## 6. Authorial Intent

- Consider what the author intended to communicate to their original audience. Understanding the author's purpose can clarify difficult passages.

## 7. Quality Scholarly Resources

- Utilize commentaries, study Bibles, and other scholarly resources to gain a deeper understanding of complex passages.

### Conclusion:

The argument that only men should be pastors and elders is supported by key biblical passages such as 1 Timothy 2:11-12 and 1 Timothy 3:1-2. In 1 Timothy 2:11-12, Paul instructs that women should not teach or exercise authority over men, reflecting the cultural norms of first-century Ephesus, where the letter was addressed. This directive aligns with the authorial intent of maintaining order and authority within the church community during a time of significant cultural upheaval.

Additionally, in 1 Timothy 3:1-2, the qualifications for an overseer explicitly use male pronouns, suggesting that church leadership roles were intended for men. The original Greek terms also reinforce this understanding, as they imply a male-centric leadership structure consistent with the broader biblical narrative of male headship in both the family and the church. Thus, considering context, language, and authorial intent, proponents argue that the biblical model designates pastoral and elder roles for men.

The argument that women can serve as deacons is supported by passages such as Romans 16:1-2, where Phoebe is described as a "deacon" (or "servant") of the church at Cenchreae. The original Greek term "diakonos" used here is gender-neutral, indicating that women held significant roles in church leadership. Additionally, 1 Timothy 3:11 refers to "their wives" in the qualifications for deacons, but some translations and interpretations suggest this may also refer to women deacons, emphasizing their inclusion in ministry roles.

Contextually, the early church operated within a framework that valued service and leadership irrespective of gender, aligning with the broader biblical principle of equality in Christ as articulated in Galatians 3:28. The authorial intent of these texts appears to affirm the active participation of women in ministry, allowing for their roles as deacons within the church. Therefore, considering context, language, and authorial intent, there is a compelling case for the inclusion of women as deacons.

**Short Videos to Review: women as pastor a/o deacons -**

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/qg2iTPv7YXI?feature=share>

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Ug7EtP1nFxc?feature=share>

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/OCihlh8v8t4?feature=share>

<https://youtu.be/5-MfqVROrDI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=83xO-jc05go>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/women-deacons.html>