

# **Role of Women in the Church**

**What the bible says**

**Summary Book**

## **Role of women in the church**

**And the dress code for God's children**

**What the bible says**

# How to understand and interpret the word of God

Below are five bible principles to help a person understand the truth contained in the word of God

## 1. Every Word of God is plain to understand

**All the words** of My mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing crooked or perverse in them. **They are all plain to him that understands**, and right to them that find knowledge.” Proverbs 8:8-9

## 2. Find two or three similar verses to establish the full truth

“...at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall **the matter be established**. (Deuteronomy 19:15).

“...This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of **two or three witnesses shall every word be established**.” (2 Corinthians 13).

## 3. Believe Everything written in the bible as the total truth

“I worship the God of my fathers, **believing all things** which are **written in the Law and in the Prophets**.” (Acts 24:14)

“For whatever things were written before **were written for our learning**.” (Romans 15:4).

## 4. Every Single Word of God is pure.... Do not add or subtract to it.

“**Every Word of God is pure**; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. **Do not add to His words**, Lest He rebuke you, and you be **found a liar**”. (Proverbs 30:5-6)

“**You shall not add** to the word which I command you, **nor take from it**, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you”. (Deuteronomy 4:2)

## 5. Let the Bible Interpret itself...Do not twist to fit your own interpretation

“...as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are **some things hard to understand**, which **untaught** and **unstable** people **twist to their own destruction**, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures”. (2 Peter 3:16).

# Roles given to women by God

The bible clearly indicate the roles or duties of women. Notice all the roles given in below verses.

## 1. Role the first woman (Eve) was given by God

<sup>16</sup>Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou **shall bring forth children**; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. (Gen 3:16)

## 2. Roles of older women to younger women

<sup>3</sup> the **older women** likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, **teachers of good things**— <sup>4</sup> that they **admonish** the **young women** to **love their husbands**, to **love their children**, <sup>5</sup> to **be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient** to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. (Titus 2:3-5)

**3. Role of windows** (to qualify to be taken into number, a window be over sixty years old and must have fulfilled the following)

<sup>9</sup> Do not let a **widow under sixty years old** be taken into the number, **and not unless** she has been the wife of one man, <sup>10</sup> **well reported for good works**: if she has **brought up children**, if she has **lodged strangers**, if she has **washed the saints' feet**, if she has **relieved the afflicted**, if she has **diligently followed every good work**. (1 Timothy 5:9-10)

## 4. Role of younger windows (under sixty years old)

.....<sup>14</sup>Therefore I desire that *the* **younger widows** **marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity** to the adversary to **speak reproachfully**". (1 Timothy 5:9-10, 14)

## 5. Role of wives to own husbands

<sup>1</sup>Likewise, you **wives**, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may **without the word be won by the conversation of the wives**; <sup>2</sup> While they behold your **chaste conversation** coupled with fear. (1 Peter 3:1-2)

## ROLE OF WOMEN

- Teachers of good things
- Diligently followed every good works

- *to love their husbands,*
- *to love their children,*
- *to be discreet,*
- *to be chaste,*
- *to be homemakers,*
- *to be good,*
- *to be obedient to their own husbands,*
- *brought up children,*
- *lodged strangers,*
- *washed the saints' feet,*
- *relieved the afflicted*
- *marry,*
- *bear children,*
- *manage the house,*
- *chaste conversation*

Clearly, No verse is indicated that women preached, taught or spoke in the churches

# Examples given in the bible of roles performed by various women in the church

## **Phoebe, Priscilla, Mary, Tryphena and Tryphosa, Persis**

### **✚ Romans 16:1-6,12**

<sup>1</sup> I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, <sup>2</sup> that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.

<sup>3</sup> Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, <sup>4</sup> who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

<sup>6</sup> Greet Mary, who labored much for us.

<sup>12</sup> Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, who have labored in the Lord. Greet the beloved Persis, who labored much in the Lord.

## **Euodia and Syntyche**

### **✚ Philippians 4:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names *are* in the Book of Life.

## **Martha and her sister**

### **✚ Luke 10:40**

"But Martha was distracted with much servicing, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to service alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

## **Women had the gift of prophesy. (No other gifts is mentioned that women had)**

Bible identifies several women who were prophetess:

**Miriam** (Exod. 15:20), **Deborah** (Judg. 4:4), **Huldah** (2 Kings 22:14; 2 Chron. 34:22), **Noadiah** (Neh. 6:14); "the prophetess" (Isa. 8:3). **Anna** (Luke 2:36-38); and the **four daughters of Philip** (Acts 21:8-9).

**Labor:** *Striving together with one mind for the faith of the gospel; To labour with wearisome effort; to toil; To grow weary, tired, exhausted (with toil or burdens or grief).*

**Servant:** *One who executes commands of another, esp. of a master, a servant, attendant.*

# God does not permit Women to be Bishops, Pastors, Elders, Overseers and Deacons

Only Men (husbands of one wife) were to be ordained to Minister in all the Churches of God

## 1. Bishops

“...A **bishop** then must be blameless, the **husband of one wife**” (1 Timothy 3:1-5)

## 2. Deacons

“...Let **deacons** be the **husbands of one wife**” (1 Timothy 3:12)

## 3. Elders

“...appoint **elders** in every city as I commanded you—if **a man** is blameless, the **husband of one wife**” (Titus 1:4-6)

<sup>16</sup> And the LORD said unto Moses, gather unto me seventy **men of the elders** of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the **elders** of the people, and officers over them” (Numbers 11:16-17)

## 4. Priests

<sup>15</sup> “But **the priests**, the **Levites**, the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary ..... <sup>22</sup> They shall not **take as wife** a widow or a divorced woman...,” (Ezekiel 44:15-24)

<sup>10</sup> *‘He who is the **high priest** among his brethren, on whose head the anointing oil was poured and... <sup>13</sup> And he shall **take a wife** in her virginity (Leviticus 21:10-14)*

## 5. Overseers, and Pastors (shepherds)

All the **overseers** in the bible were **men** (overseer mentioned 5 times in the bible): **Joseph** (Gen 39:4-5), **Joel** (Neh 11:9), **Zabdiel** (Neh 11:14), **Uzzi** (Neh 12:22), **Jezrahiah**

For those who ordain women to these posts, which bible verse do they use? For those women who ordain themselves to these posts, which bible verses give you authority?

# God does not permit women to teach and speak in the Churches

1 Timothy 2:11-15

***NOT permitted to teach***

<sup>11</sup> Let a woman learn in silence with all submission.

<sup>12</sup> And **I do not permit a woman to teach** or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.

<sup>13</sup> For Adam was formed first, then Eve.

<sup>14</sup> And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

<sup>15</sup> Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

1 Corinthian 14:34

***NOT permitted to speak***

<sup>34</sup> Let your women keep silence in the churches: for **it is not permitted unto them to speak**; but **they are commanded** to be under obedience as also **says the law**.

<sup>35</sup> And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: **for it is a shame for women to speak in the church**.

<sup>36</sup> What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?

<sup>37</sup> If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things **that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord**.

<sup>38</sup> But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

***Why does God not permit?...woman is under authority of man***

1 Corinthians 11:3

But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Ephesians 5:22-23

<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

# Only men were elders of Israel, were in priesthood and sent to preach

## THE 70 ELDERS CHOSEN BY THE LORD AS "RULERS OVER ISRAEL" WERE MEN

### ✚ Numbers 11:16-17

<sup>16</sup> And the LORD said unto Moses, gather unto me **seventy men** of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee.

<sup>17</sup> And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

### ✚ Deuteronomy 1:13

<sup>13</sup> Take you **wise men**, and understanding, and known among your tribes, and I will make them rulers over you. <sup>14</sup> And ye answered me, and said, The thing which thou hast spoken is good for us to do. <sup>15</sup> So I took the chief of your tribes, **wise men**, and known, and made them heads over you, captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, and captains over fifties, and captains over tens, and officers among your tribes..

### ✚ Exodus 18:21

<sup>21</sup> Moreover you shall select from all the people **able men**, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them *to be* rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. <sup>22</sup> And let them judge the people at all times.

## PRIESTS AND LEVITES CHOSEN TO PRIESTHOOD WERE MEN

### ✚ Ezekiel 44:15-24

<sup>15</sup> "But the priests, the Levites, the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from Me, they shall come near Me to minister to Me; and they shall stand before Me to offer to Me the fat and the blood," says the Lord GOD..... <sup>22</sup> **They shall not take as wife** a widow or a divorced woman, but take virgins of the descendants of the house of Israel, or widows of priests.

### ✚ Leviticus 21:7

<sup>7</sup> They shall **not take a wife** *who is* a harlot or a defiled woman, nor shall they take a woman divorced from her husband; for *the priest* is holy to his God.

## THE 70 APPOINTED BY JESUS TO PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD WERE MEN

### ✚ Luke 10:1

After these things the Lord appointed **other seventy** also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

## THE 12 DISCIPLES CALLED TO PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD WERE MEN

### ✚ Luke 9:1 and Matthew 10:2-4

<sup>1</sup> Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. <sup>2</sup> And he sent them to **preach the kingdom of God**, and to heal the sick (Luke 9:1-2)...<sup>2</sup> Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: .....

# God forbid women to plait the hair, or wear gold, or pearls or costly clothing

key words: **NOT with**

1 Timothy 2:9-10

<sup>9</sup> In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, **not with braided hair** or **gold** or **pearls** or **costly clothing**,

<sup>10</sup> but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.

key words: **Let it NOT**

1 Peter 3:1-6

<sup>3</sup> Whose adorning **let it not be** that outward adorning of **plaiting the hair**, and of **wearing of gold**, or of **putting on of apparel**;

<sup>4</sup> But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

## Even the holy Women in old time did not adorn themselves outwardly

<sup>5</sup> For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, **adorned themselves**, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

<sup>6</sup> Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

## Why does God outlaw the above?

God's children are a holy and peculiar people to the Lord: our body, spirit and soul should be preserved blameless.

**Romans 12:1**

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present **your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God**, which is your reasonable service.

"The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your **whole spirit** and **soul** and **body be preserved blameless** unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

**Deuteronomy 14:1-2**

<sup>2</sup> For you **are a holy people to the LORD your God**, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples who *are* on the face of the earth.



# God forbid women to *wear* men's clothing, and men to wear woman clothing

Deuteronomy 22:5

<sup>5</sup> "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the LORD your God.

## Should Women Wear trousers?

*It is an abomination to the Lord for women to wear anything that is man's clothing, and vice versa. Women should not wear trousers, for they pertain to a man, just as the dress pertains to a woman. Who does not know what constitute a man or woman clothing unless deceived? If anyone claim there is a woman's trouser or brassiere, is there a man's dress and brassiere? Would it not be an abomination for a man to wear a dress?*



## Women started wearing trousers Just recently

*From a historical perspective, women wearing pants started with "The Dress Reform Movement" around the **1840s and 1850s** (peculiar same time advent movement started).*

### ARTICLE 1: When did Women Start Wearing Pants? (Encyclopedia Britannica)

The adoption of pants as a popular item of [dress](#) for women in Western society traces its roots to [the mid-19th-century dress-reform movement](#). In the United States, Elizabeth Smith Miller designed an early version of pants like clothing for women around 1851. While there were some women who championed pants in the **19th century (1800-1900)**, pants as an acceptable everyday clothing option for women didn't truly catch on until the **mid-20th century**. There were short-lived revivals of pants-wearing in public by women, such as during [World War I \(1914–18\)](#), when civilian women who took over jobs traditionally held by men sometimes wore pants. During [World War II \(1939–45\)](#), pants were more widely worn by civilian and military women, both at work and socially. Although women continued to enjoy wearing pants after the war, particularly for sports or leisure, style trends for women remained fixated largely on skirts or dresses until the **1960s and '70s**. Then, buoyed by the [women's rights movement](#), pants became firmly established as popular and appropriate clothing options for women at home, in public, and in many workplaces.

Written By: [The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica](#).

For full length article see: <https://www.britannica.com/story/when-did-women-start-wearing-pant>

### ARTICLE 2: Fashion History: The 19th Century Dress Reform Movements

The Dress Reform Movement was mass-publicized by Amelia Bloomer in the US around **the 1840s and -1850s**, and was closely related to the first feminist movements. In response to the immobility that [18th Century fashion](#) imposed on women, Ms. Bloomer created a costume that included the upper layers of a traditional dress, shortened to form a below-the-knee skirt over Turkish-style pants, tied at the ankle cuffs. This costume did not show more of the body than traditional dresses of the period, but it was still found unacceptable because the trouser shape (in any form) was only for men. For full article see, <http://www.ashleyedavidson.com/blog/fashion-history-the-19th-century-dress-reform-movements>

# Woman should Cover her Head when Praying or Prophesying



## Woman should cover her head when praying or prophesying

1 Corinthians 11:5-6, 8-10, 13-16

<sup>5</sup> But every woman that prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

<sup>6</sup> For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

<sup>8</sup> For the man is not of the woman: but the woman of the man.

<sup>9</sup> Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. <sup>10</sup> For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. (<sup>10</sup> For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?

<sup>15</sup> But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

*Head covering a custom for all churches of God*

<sup>16</sup> But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

**Though woman is subordinate to man: both are mutually dependent**

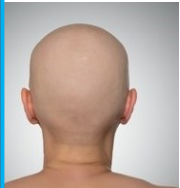
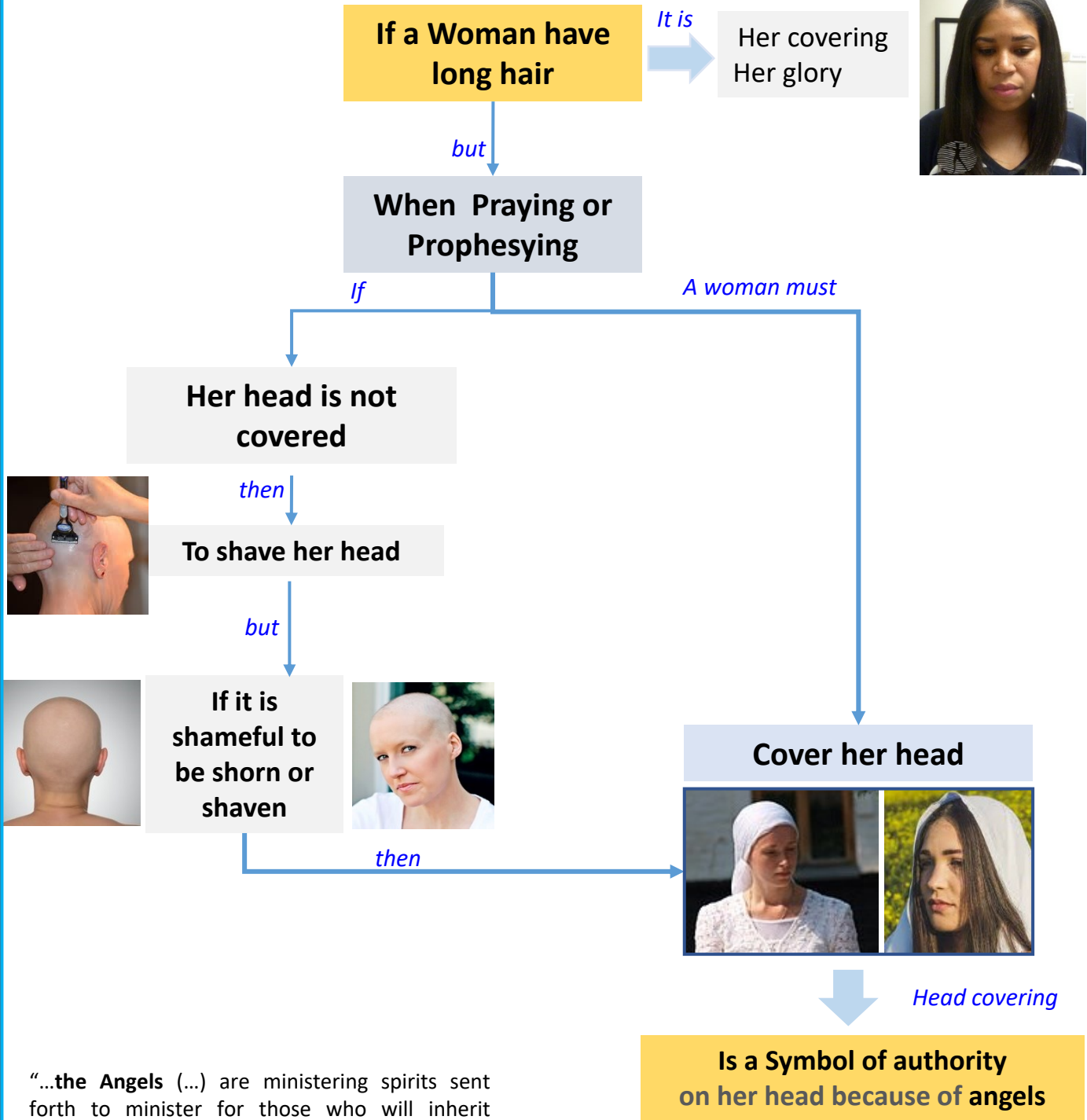
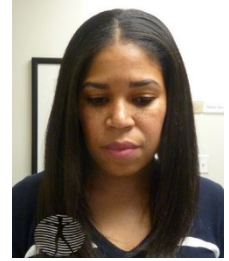
1 Corinthians 11: **11-12:**

<sup>11</sup> Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. <sup>12</sup> For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

# Woman should cover her head when praying or prophesying

<sup>5</sup> But every woman that prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head: for that is even all one as if she were **shaven**. <sup>6</sup> For **if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn**: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.<sup>8</sup> ....<sup>10</sup> For this reason the woman ought to have a **symbol of authority on her head**, because of the angels (1 Corinthians 11:5-10)

<sup>15</sup> But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.



"...the Angels (...) are ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation" (Hebrews 1:13-14)

**Is a Symbol of authority on her head because of angels**

# God commands men should pray everywhere

1 Timothy 2:8

I will therefore that  
**men pray everywhere,**  
lifting up holy hands, without  
wrath and doubting

Where is it written women to lead  
prayers?

Women who lead prayers in the church assemblies, and in public places,  
which bible verses give them authority to do so?

**Every Word of God is pure;** He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. **Do not add to His words,**  
Lest He rebuke you, and you be **found a liar**". (Proverbs 30:5-6)

# Man should not cover his head when praying or prophesying

## 1 Corinthians 11:4,7,14

<sup>4</sup> Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head.

<sup>7</sup> For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

<sup>14</sup> Does not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

# What should be dress length for sabbath keepers?

[Part 1]

## 1. What does the Spirit of Prophecy say on women dressing

I have spoken once upon this point, yet some fail to follow the advice given. **There should be uniformity as to the length of the reform dress among Sabbathkeepers”.**

“I have written in regard to the length of the dress, a healthful, convenient, economical, yet modest and becoming style of dress for Christian women to wear, if they should choose so to do. The dress should reach somewhat below the top of the boot, but should be short enough to clear the filth of the sidewalk and street, without being raised by the hand.’ Some have contended that by the top of the boot, I meant the top of such boots as men usually wear. But by ‘the top of the boot,’ I designed to be understood the top of a boot, or gaiter shoe, usually worn by women. My views were calculated to correct the present fashion, the extreme long dress, trailing upon the ground, and also to correct the extreme short dress, reaching about to the knees, which is worn by a certain class. I was shown that we should shun both extremes.

By wearing the dress reaching about to the top of a woman’s gaiter boot we shall escape the evils of the extreme long dress, and shall also shun the evils and notoriety of the extreme short dress.

**I would earnestly recommend uniformity in length, and would say that nine inches as nearly accords with my views of the matter as I am able to express it in inches.**

I have spoken once upon this point, yet some fail to follow the advice given. **There should be uniformity as to the length of the reform dress among Sabbathkeepers”.**

# Christian Women should Dress Modestly

## What does the Spirit of Prophecy say?

[Part 2]

### 3. What does the Spirit of Prophecy say on women dressing

Testimonies for the Church, Volume One: [Ellen G. White, 1868]

“The mass of professed Christians utterly disregards the teachings of the apostles, and wear gold, pearls, and costly array. “God’s loyal people are the light of the world and the salt of the earth, and they should ever remember that their influence is of value. God’s people have, to a great extent, lost their peculiarity, and have been gradually patterning after the world, and mingling with them, until they have in many respects become like them. This is displeasing to God”.

“Christians should follow Christ and make their dress conform to God’s word. They should shun extremes. Christian sisters should not at any time dress extravagantly, but should at all times dress as neatly, modestly, and healthfully as their work will allow.”

“I was shown that the people of God should not imitate the fashions of the world. Some have done this, and are fast losing the peculiar, holy character which should distinguish them as God’s people. I was pointed back to God’s ancient people, and was led to compare their apparel with the mode of dress in these last days. What a difference! what a change! Then the women were not so bold as now. When they went in public, they covered their faces with a veil. In these last days, fashions are shameful and immodest”.

“I saw that God’s order has been reversed, and His special directions disregarded, by those who adopt the American costume. I was referred to Deuteronomy 22:5: “The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman’s garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God”. God would not have His people adopt the so-called reform dress. It is immodest apparel, wholly unfitted for the modest, humble followers of Christ. “There is an increasing tendency to have women in their dress and appearance as near like the other sex as possible, and to fashion their dress very much like that of men, but God pronounces it abomination. ‘In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety.’ 1 Timothy 2:9.”

“Those who feel called out to join the movement in favor of woman’s rights and the so-called dress reform might as well sever all connection with the third angel’s message. The spirit which attends the one cannot be in harmony with the other.”

Extracts from Ellen G. White

# Christian Women should Dress Modestly

## What does the Spirit of Prophecy say?

[Part 3]

### 2. What does the Spirit of Prophecy say on women dressing

Testimonies for the Church, Volume One: [Ellen G. White, 1868]

“There is still another style of dress which is adopted by a class of so-called dress reformers. They imitate the opposite sex as nearly as possible. They wear the cap, pants, vest, coat, and boots, the last of which is the most sensible part of the costume. Those who adopt and advocate this style of dress carry the so-called dress reform to very objectionable lengths. Confusion will be the result. Some who adopt this costume may be correct in their general views upon the health question, but they would be instrumental in accomplishing vastly more good if they did not carry the matter of dress to such extremes. “In this style of dress God’s order has been reversed and His special directions disregarded. Deuteronomy 22:5: “The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman’s garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God.”

“I have written in regard to the length of the dress, a healthful, convenient, economical, yet modest and becoming style of dress for Christian women to wear, if they should choose so to do. The dress should reach somewhat below the top of the boot, but should be short enough to clear the filth of the sidewalk and street, without being raised by the hand.’ Some have contended that by the top of the boot, I meant the top of such boots as men usually wear. But by ‘the top of the boot,’ I designed to be understood the top of a boot, or gaiter shoe, usually worn by women. My views were calculated to correct the present fashion, the extreme long dress, trailing upon the ground, and also to correct the extreme short dress, reaching about to the knees, which is worn by a certain class. I was shown that we should shun both extremes. By wearing the dress reaching about to the top of a woman’s gaiter boot we shall escape the evils of the extreme long dress, and shall also shun the evils and notoriety of the extreme short dress. I would earnestly recommend uniformity in length, and would say that nine inches as nearly accords with my views of the matter as I am able to express it in inches. I have spoken once upon this point, yet some fail to follow the advice given. There should be uniformity as to the length of the reform dress among Sabbathkeepers”.

“God knows His humble, willing, obedient children and will reward them according to their faithful performance of His will. To many the dress reform is too simple and humbling to be adopted. They cannot lift the cross. God works by simple means to separate and distinguish His children from the world; but some have so departed from the simplicity of the work and ways of God that they are above the work, not in it”.

“I have done my duty; I have borne my testimony, and those who have heard me and read that which I have written must now bear the responsibility of receiving or rejecting the light given. If they choose to venture to be forgetful hearers, and not doers of the work, they run their own risk and will be accountable to God for the course they pursue. I am clear. I shall urge none and condemn none”.

"The reform dress is simple and healthful, yet there is a cross in it. I thank God for the cross and cheerfully bow to lift it”.

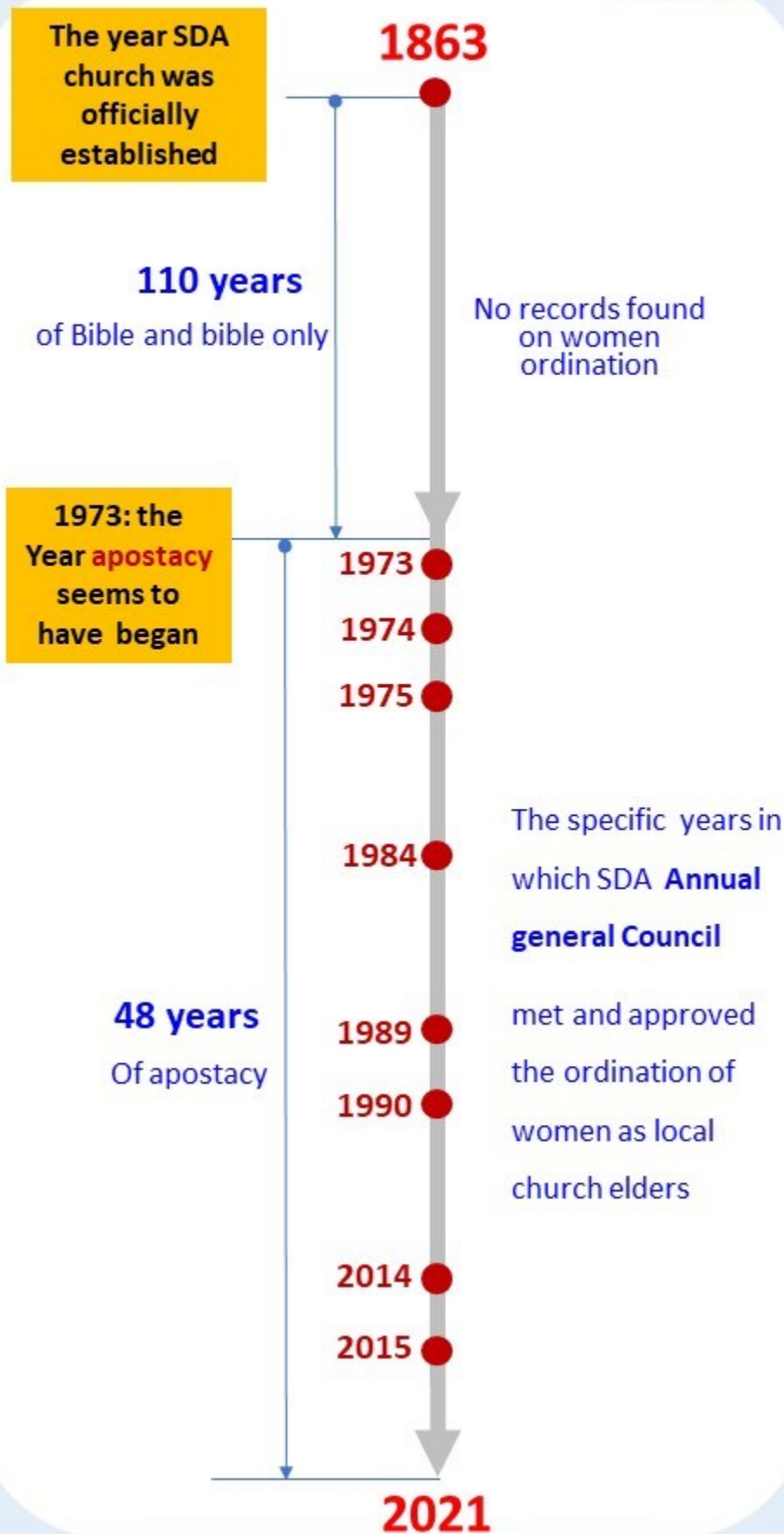
Extracts from Ellen G. White



# When did the Apostasy began?

Tracing the History of how SDA approved the ordination of women

Establishing the roots of apostasy



# History of how SDA approved the ordination of women

## Changing the truth into a lie

### PART 1

[SDA OFFICIAL POSITION]

All these are direct Quotations extracted from official records

#### > Year 1973 (September)

"Annual Council in 1973 recorded an action entitled, *"Role of Women in the Church"* (See AC '73, General p. 19; NADCA p. 22.). In Paragraph 3, the Annual Council requested the divisions to pursue for "continued study be given to the theological soundness of the election of women to local church offices which require ordination." (See [page 19](#)). The study finding were to be shared with the General Conference in time for consideration by Annual Council 1974.

#### > Year 1973 (December)

"A report was submitted to the council on the role of women in the church; it was Voted: To adopt the following course of action: "That continued study be given to the theological soundness of the election of women to local church offices which require ordination and the division committees exercise discretion in any special cases that may arise until a definitive decision is adopted". This matter will continue to be studied as arranged for by the President's Executive Advisory. "That in areas receptive to such action, there be continued recognition of the appropriateness of appointing women to pastoral-evangelistic work, and that the appropriate missionary credentials/licenses be granted them".

#### > Year 1974

At the 1974 Annual Council, the members of the General Conference Executive Committee voted:

(3) "To request the President's Executive Advisory to also arrange for further study of the ordination of women to the gospel ministry". "that division committees exercise discretion in any special cases that may arise before a definitive position has been adopted" ([General Conference Executive Committee Minutes, p. 74-389, available as a PDF here](#)). (See [page 19](#)). 7. "That in areas receptive to such action, there be continued recognition of the appropriateness of appointing women to pastoral evangelistic work, and that the appropriate missionary credentials/licenses be granted them."

#### > Year 1975

At the 1975 Spring Meeting, it was voted: "5. That in harmony with the spirit and intent of paragraph 3 of the Annual Council 1974 action (pages 12-14) the greatest discretion and caution be exercised in the ordaining of women to the office of local elder, counsel being sought in all cases by the local conference/mission from the union and division committees before proceeding" ([General Conference Executive Committee Minutes, p. 75-153 available at as a PDF here](#)). See also ([See page 153](#))

#### >Year 1984

"The 1984 Annual Council reaffirmed the 1975 Spring Meeting action that women could be ordained as local church elders in those divisions that make provision for it. This vote also included guidelines to be followed "in the selection and ordination of women as local church elders": ([General Conference Executive Committee Minutes, pp. 84-386,387 available at as a PDF here](#))

"The action to elect and ordain a woman as a local church elder must not be taken unless a clear consensus exists that the ministry of a woman elder is desirable and even essential to the spiritual well-being of the local church family. It should also be the consensus of the church that a woman elder will be respected as a spiritual leader and soul-winner. A clear majority of the voting members of the local church must be in favor of the action. Whatever the decision of the church, it should result in unifying the members and not be the source of divisiveness or alienation". [Source: General Conference Committee Minutes, October 14, 1984,](#)

ADDITIONAL SOURCE: OFFICIAL ADVENT WEBSITE

<https://www.pastortedwilson.org/questions-answers/has-general-conference-session-voted-for-the-ordination-of-female-elders-part-2/>

# History of how SDA approved the ordination of women

## Changing the truth into a lie

PART 2

[SDA OFFICIAL POSITION]

### > Year 1989

All these are direct Quotations extracted from official records

"The 1989 Annual Council received a two-part (**PART A and PART B**) recommendation from the Role of Women Commission. **Part B:** recommended that "those who have, without regard to gender, been recognized as commissioned ministers or licensed ministers may perform essentially the ministerial functions of an ordained minister of the gospel in the churches to which they are assigned, subject to division authorization of this provision. On Oct. 9, 1989 Part B was voted and finalized at the 1989 Annual Council ([General Conference Executive Committee Minutes pp. 89-429, 430, 431 available as a PDF here](#)). This 1989 Annual Council decision was based on the 1984 Annual Council decision that each world division could decide whether women could be ordained as local elders within its territory. This allowed for women to serve as pastors and to "perform essentially the ministerial functions of an ordained minister of the gospel in the churches to which they are assigned".

### > Year 1990

"What the 1990 General Conference Session did was amend the Church Manual to provide gender-neutral language regarding church elders. The revision of the Church Manual to make its language gender-neutral sought to harmonize the Church Manual with what had been decided at the Annual Council, Even though background information was provided before the vote, the question of whether women should be ordained as local elders was never debated on the floor of the Session; the 1989 Annual Council had already assumed the responsibility to make that decision".

### > Year 2014

A report titled "*The Theology of Ordination: the Study Committee Report, June 2014*" was presented in the 2014 Annual Council. The report proposed 3 statement on the way forward;

#### Way Forward Statement #1

(1) Reaffirm and encourage, with public recognition and licensure, women whom God has called to gospel work;  
(3) Promote the greater development of various lines of ministry for women, according to their spiritual gifts, including but not limited to personal and public evangelism, teaching, preaching, ministering to families, counseling, medical missionary work, departmental leadership, etc.

#### Way Forward Statement #2

"Because we accept the Bible's call to give witness to God's impartiality and believe that disunity and fragmentation will be the inevitable result of enforcing only one perspective in all regions, we propose that:

- Each entity responsible for calling pastors be authorized to choose either to have only men as ordained pastors or to have both men and women as ordained pastors. [This choice will be protected by guarantees in the relevant documents of each union, division and the General Conference, so that no entity can be directed against its will to adopt a position other than the one to which the collective conscience of its constituency points.]
- The union, at which organizational level decisions for ordination have historically been made in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, be enabled by its division to make the decision as to whether to approve the ordination of both men and women to gospel ministry".

#### Way Forward Statement #3

"We affirm the biblical pattern of male leadership, under the headship of Christ, in the office of the ordained minister. However, we do not see this pattern as a moral absolute or universal divine command, or of sacramental or salvific significance. Although based on important aspects of human nature, it is primarily meant to promote order in the church and further its mission. Based on a wide range of biblical precedents, we acknowledge that, in certain circumstances, God permits divine patterns for ecclesiastical organization to be adapted or modified in order to promote the mission, unity, and welfare of the church"

# History of how SDA approved the ordination of women

## Changing the truth into a lie

PART 3

[SDA OFFICIAL POSITION]

### 2014 *continued*...The Way Forward #3

"In light of the priority of mission, the need for church unity, and the principle of respect for Christian liberty, we propose that Divisions be authorized to decide, based on prayerful consideration of biblical teaching, whether to extend ministerial ordination to both men and women in their regions or sub-regions. In doing so, however, they must protect the religious liberty of conferences, churches, and employees that hold other convictions".

### > Year 2015

[Ordination Statement for General Conference Session, July 2015]

#### Position of Group 1

(7) Women's ordination, even regionally, undermines three of our Fundamental Beliefs and weakens the Adventist mission: (1) the doctrine of the Holy Scriptures, by not following the plain reading of Scripture; (2) the doctrine of the church, through an unbiblical church structure; (3) the doctrine of unity, by compromising the worldwide validity of ordination. Many denominations that adopted women's ordination have experienced sharp divisions and membership losses.

#### Position of Group 2

"A super-majority of delegates, more than two-thirds, did agree on the following two points: 2. The world church should also recognize that biblical spiritual leaders were chosen to further the mission and unity of God's people, and that biblical examples and principles reveal that if unity and mission can be better met by female spiritual leadership, including in the office of ordained pastor, then Divisions should be allowed to do this".

#### Position of Group 3

"Ordaining women to the ministry does not violate any biblical teaching or mandate; therefore we should all move forward, in spite of our personal opinion on the topic, allowing divisions to decide the matter based upon the local circumstances in their territories".

#### Position 3 moderate proposal (Forward Together in Faithfulness)

"In seeking To implement This godly tolerance, our practical Proposal is as follows: The Session Affirms that Men have A special responsibility to carry out the office of ordained minister, but where it would further Church mission and unity, Divisions can allow unions to Authorize the Ordination of Women ministers, But no Conference, Mission or Local Church should Be obliged To have Women ministers Serve within Their territory Or church. This proposal does Three things(point 2 and 3 quoted below)":

"(2). It Allow exceptions where Divisions, Unions, And Conferences, In consultation, agree to ordain women. Thus, Territories that are convinced and convicted of that need for a variance may obtain one. (3). It Protects the rights of territories and churches that desire to preserve a traditional approach to ordination. It Protects the religious freedom of those that may differ from the variance."

All these are direct Quotations extracted from official record

# God's Final Warning to humanity

When God sends to men warnings so important that they are represented as proclaimed by holy angels flying in the midst of heaven, he requires every person endowed with reasoning powers to heed the message. The fearful judgments denounced against the worship of the beast and his image, should lead all to a diligent study of the prophecies to learn what the mark of the beast is, and how they are to avoid receiving it. But the masses of the people turn away their ears from hearing the truth, and are turned unto fables. The apostle Paul declared, looking down to the last days, "The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine. " **That time has fully come.** The multitudes do not want Bible truth, because it interferes with the desires of the sinful, world - loving heart; and Satan supplies the deceptions which they love. SP:GC

1st Angel message

Revelation 14: 6-12



<sup>6</sup> ..., Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

2nd Angel message



<sup>8</sup> ..., Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.(Revelation 14:8)

...<sup>4</sup>And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. (Revelation 18:4)

3rd Angel message



<sup>9</sup> ..., If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, <sup>10</sup> The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; .....

<sup>12</sup> Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

# How to identify the true Church of the Living God

**The true church has those remnants who are the Pillar and Ground of the Truth,**

“I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, **the Pillar and Ground of the Truth**” (1 Timothy 3:15)

**Remnants who keep the Commandments of God and have the Testimony of Jesus,**

“.....offspring, **who keep the commandments of God** and **have the Testimony of Jesus Christ**” (Rev 12:17) ...Revelation 19 defines the testimony of Jesus .....“**For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy**” (Revelation 19:10)

“Here is the patience of the saints; here *are* **those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus**” (revelation 14:12)

“Blessed *are* **those who do His commandments**, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city” (Revelation 22:14).

**Because of their Love, Obedience, and Faith in their Lord Jesus Christ,**

1. they do not keep other gods
2. they do not make carved images, nor worship idols
3. they do not mention their Lord's name in vain
4. they do not profane the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath but keep it holy
5. they do not dishonor their father and mother
6. they do not kill
7. they do not commit adultery, or any sexual immorality
8. they do not steal
9. they do not lie or bear false witness against their neighbor
10. they do not covet their neighbor's house, wife or property

<sup>3</sup> Now by this we know that we know Him, **if we keep His commandments**. <sup>4</sup> He who says, “I know Him,” and **does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him**. <sup>5</sup> But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. **By this we know that we are in Him**. <sup>6</sup> He who says he abides in Him ought himself also **to walk just as He walked**. (1 John 2:3-6)

**In summary, the true Church of the living God is that which has remnants...**

- ❖ Who Believe in Every Word written in the bible (They are the Pillar and Ground of truth)
- ❖ Who Keep and do all the commandments of God and keep His statutes, judgments, laws.
- ❖ Who believe in and have the Faith of Jesus (i.e. both hearers and doers of the Word of God)
- ❖ Who have the testimony of Jesus (the spirit of prophesy), and obey it.
- ❖ Who worship God in Spirit and Truth (latter and spirit of the law)

**If you can not find such a people, stand up and be one**

# Conclusion

Ecclesiastes 12:13

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:  
**Fear God, and keep His Commandments: for  
this is the whole duty of man”**

*Those who are watching for the Lord's 2<sup>nd</sup>  
coming are purifying their souls by  
obedience to*

**“His right judgments, and true laws, good  
statutes and commandments”** (Neh 9:13)

*For question and comments  
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