

Biblical Framework For Women's Ministry

As we look to God's Word as the authority for all of life and ministry, we find five truths that serve as "tent poles" to lend structure to our concept of women's ministry within the church.

Tenet #1: The Imago Dei: Men and Women are Created Uniquely

"So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27).

In the creation account we find a critical Truth about mankind. Men and women were created distinctly from the beginning. While we hold equal *value* as image bearers of God, we are not the same. Our differences are meant to illuminate unique Truths about who God is. And while many of our deepest needs are universal (ex: salvation, justification, sanctification, and community) some of our needs are gender-specific as are some of our propensities toward sin.

Tenet #2: Men and Women Have Unique and Complementary Roles Within the Home and Church.

God clearly gives the authority of leading both homes and the Church to men ([Ephesians 5:22-33](#), [1 Timothy 3:1-7](#), [2:8-15](#), [Titus 1:5-9](#)). This is not a commentary on women's value or capability, but rather an authority structure that speaks to our unique design.

The original word used is ezer kenegdo which translates as "help meet" or "helper" ([Genesis 2:18](#)). In our sinful world, this is often taken as an insult or indication of inferiority, but as we read the whole counsel of God we find a radically different truth. Elsewhere in Scripture when we read the term helper or ezer kenegdo, it is always referring to God. In verses like:

- "Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life" (Psalm 54:4).
- "So we can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:6).
- "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (John 14:27).

Women are essential to the health of our homes and churches. Scripture affirms this with a message that states, in essence, “We couldn’t do this without her.”

Scripture does not give us a message of female empowerment or male domination but of a unique structure where men and women complement each other in their roles.

Tenet #3: All Believers Are Called to Make Disciples and Teach God’s Word.

In Jesus’ final sermon, He commanded believers to:

1. Make disciples
2. Teach God’s Word.

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age’” (Matthew 28:18-20).

Because of our relational tendencies, women are uniquely able to reach other women with the Gospel through relationship. Jesus also points out our universal and constant need to be reminded of His teachings found in His Word. Both men and women have a responsibility to be ambassadors of the Gospel and to be committed lifelong students of God’s Word. However, because we are created uniquely, we often live out these responsibilities differently.

Tenet #4: A Proven Method for Effective Discipleship is Gender-Specific and Intergenerational.

In Titus 2, Paul gives young pastor Titus a method for how to fight against false teachings in the church. This proven method that still works for helping believers understand and live out the Truth of God’s Word.

“But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled” (Titus 2:1-6).

Because men and women are created uniquely, we learn and understand uniquely. While men certainly have the authority to teach women spiritual truths (as husbands, fathers, and pastors) women also flourish when they regularly gather around God's Word with other women in varied stages of life, as men flourish when they regularly gather around God's Word with other men in varied stages of life.

Tenet #5: The Church is Dependent on the Gifts of Women.

- Throughout Scripture, God used women as ambassadors of Truth and hope including Deborah ([Judges 4-5](#)), Abigail ([1 Samuel 25](#)), Esther, Ruth, Mary ([Matthew 1](#)), Lydia ([Acts 16:14](#)), and Priscilla ([Acts 18](#)).
- Women were the first ones entrusted with the news that Jesus has risen from the dead ([Matthew 28:1-10](#)).
- Women were essential to the building of the New Testament Church we still love and serve today.

Scripture teaches that God has given each believer gifts and that those gifts should be maximized for the spread of the Gospel and the health of the Body of Christ.

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace” (1 Peter 4:10).

With women making up at least half of the adult population of our church at Greentree and the global Church worldwide, we affirm God's use of women to build His Kingdom through Scripture and we seek to recognize and utilize the spiritual gifts of women in order to thrive.

“Women are essential and indispensable in the advancement of the kingdom. If we have crafted a vision of the church in which women are extra. . . we have crafted a vision of the church that is foreign to the Scriptures” Jen Wilkin.

Mission Statement

Based on these Biblical tenets, Rooted (the women's ministry of Greentree Christian Church) operates from this mission:

- **We affirm that both men and women bear the image of God, keeping in mind that both genders are equal in their value but distinct in their creation.**
- **We seek to create discipleship and ministry opportunities that embrace differences and provide regular and meaningful opportunities to study God's Word with other women in different generations.**
- **We believe that Scripture is the ultimate authority in a woman's life. We see knowing and embracing God's Word as a Christian woman's greatest need. To that end, we vow to give women what they need (God's Word) even when it is not what they want.**
- **We work to help women know what their spiritual gifts are and encourage them to use those gifts in their homes and in our church. Our plans are not driven by programming, but rather by recognizing the gifts available to them and utilizing them to their fullest potential. We let the gifts lead.**
- **We seek to affirm and support the male leadership of our church. We actively teach women to do the same as well as championing and submitting to male authority in their homes and workplaces.**
- **We believe that women thrive as a result of meaningful relationships with other women. We seek to connect the women of our church and community with each other, with the overt common goal of growing in Christ together. Rather than simply meeting a woman's need to be known, we encourage women to know God and know others.**
- **We want to create clear on ramps for discipleship, connection, and service so that all women of Greentree know how to get involved.**

2018 Goals

To this end, here are the goals of this ministry for 2018.

- Host two events (Spring and fall) for the purpose of enrolling women in Bible studies. These events should be well-planned, well-executed, and appealing to women in every demographic.
- Enroll 200+ women in our Spring and fall Bible study semesters.
- Reach a retention rate of 90% throughout the weeks of study for both semesters.
- Develop a more robust prayer ministry that involves a team of committed women praying regularly for the women's ministry of Greentree, the individual women of the community, the leadership of the Church, and our influence on our community. I hope to call this team to a 40 day fast in 2018 as we seek a revival among the women of this church.
- Continue to identify women's individual gifts and plug them in to areas of service in the church and community.
- Build better bridges of communication with the arms of women's ministry that existed before I came on board (Women's Missionary Council, Tuesday morning Bible study, Sisters in Support). These groups are not buying in or participating in the Rooted women's ministry. I'd like to remove any perceived barriers and see the older generations get involved with our events and studies.
- Develop a growing and committed team of leaders who understand the Biblical tenets of women's ministry outlined above and will champion those tenets.
- Continue to create meaty training opportunities that challenge women to ask of Scripture, "What does this say about God?" rather than "What does this tell me about me?"
- Build relational and discipleship bridges with the student ministry. I'd love to help Ben and Mike train adult and student female leaders.
- Continue to disciple the women at the CCH. I want area college women to understand their unique design and know there is a place for them within the women's ministry of GCC.
- Personal goal: Better balance my responsibilities as a wife and mom, author/speaker/editor, and women's ministry leader in order to protect sustainability in all arenas.