

DAY 7

Empowering the Church

Every man who prays or prophesies with something on his head dishonors his head. Every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head.

1 Corinthians 11:4–5

Leadership Affirmation

I place a “10” on the forehead of each person whom You allow me to influence for Your glory.

Some churches operate beyond God’s design with women’s roles in ministry. But vastly more churches artificially limit both women and men from exercising the gifts that God gave them.

There are two areas God uniquely assigns to certain men in the church: *preaching ministry and pastoral ministry*. Beyond this specific leadership role assigned to those God calls for that specific purpose, men and women alike are gifted and commanded by the Lord to engage in active leadership and service.

Both men and women are to lead in teaching and mentoring ministries. Passages such as Titus 2:1–4 are clear that men and women are to mentor those who are younger in age and in the faith. You can teach without mentoring, but you can’t mentor without teaching. Men and women alike have a leadership responsibility in the church to teach God’s word and to invest in discipling men, women, and children in the congregation.

Both men and women are to lead in missions and discipleship ministries. The first evangelist to Samaria was an unnamed woman who, after encountering Jesus at Jacob’s well, went into town and shared the Gospel with both men and women, many of whom believed in Jesus as the Messiah. The former demon-possessed man from Gadara proclaimed the Lord’s mercy in the Gentile Ten Cities region, and the people were *all amazed*.

Both men and women are to lead in prayer and in prophesying. First Corinthians 11 gives a clear expectation that men will pray and prophesy in the church and that women will pray and prophesy in the church.

In summary, our world and our families need men to step up and be the husbands, fathers, and leaders in our homes, communities, and churches that God created them to be. It needs women to step up to be the wife, mother, and leader in our homes, communities, and churches that God created them to be.

Prayer for Protection

Dear Lord, lead me joyfully to be engaged in active ministry to those in my circle of influence.