

Questions About Whether Pastor and Evangelist Callings are Reserved Exclusively for Men

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Pastor Anderson - I am a pastor of another denomination and I watch you. I believe you're teaching heresy by supporting women in ministry. The great shaking will be caused by horrible preachers like you. Repent from your position. Pastors and evangelists are reserved EXCLUSIVELY for men like us.

Answer:

Dear Pastor,

Thank you for reaching out — even in disagreement. I want to respond with **clarity**, **respect**, and **biblical conviction**, not from a place of offense, but from a desire for *truth spoken in love* (Ephesians 4:15). You are a brother in Christ, and I respect your ministry and courage to write.

First, a Shared Foundation

You and I both believe:

- The Bible is God's inspired Word.
- God has standards for leadership and order in the church.
- Truth matters — especially in the last days when deception abounds.
- The church will go through a "shaking" as prophecy foretells (Hebrews 12:26–27; Early Writings, pp. 270–273).

We're not enemies. We're both trying to honor God. So let's reason together with Scripture, not with tradition or assumption.

What Does the Bible Actually Say About Women and Ministry?

While I understand your concerns, here is what the Bible **does** affirm:

1. Women were prophets — spiritual authorities.

- Miriam (Exodus 15:20), Deborah (Judges 4:4), Huldah (2 Kings 22:14), Anna (Luke 2:36), and the daughters of Philip (Acts 21:9) were all *authorized by God* to speak His Word publicly.

Prophets were the highest spiritual authority in Israel—often rebuking kings, priests, and even male leadership. Their calling was not dismissed by gender.

2. Deborah judged Israel (Judges 4–5).

She didn't just prophesy. She *led the nation*, settled disputes, and instructed Barak in God's will. When he hesitated, God *used her* to lead a military deliverance.

If this was heresy, God would not have blessed her leadership with national victory and a song of praise.

3. The New Testament Church Included Women Leaders.

- **Phoebe** is called a *diakonos* (Romans 16:1–2) — the same Greek word used for male deacons. Paul entrusted her with his letter to Rome.
- **Junia** is called *outstanding among the apostles* (Romans 16:7).
- **Priscilla** taught Apollos doctrine (Acts 18:26) alongside her husband — and her name is often listed *before* his, indicating prominence.
- **Tryphena and Tryphosa** are listed as “workers in the Lord” (Romans 16:12) — a phrase used of Paul's own ministry.

These are not anomalies. They are evidence.

What About 1 Timothy 2 and 3, and Titus 1?

Yes, these are commonly cited texts. But let's rightly divide the Word:

- **1 Timothy 2:12** speaks to a local situation in Ephesus (a city rife with goddess worship and false teaching). Paul was addressing *disorder*, not issuing an eternal gag order for all godly women throughout all time.
- **1 Timothy 3** and **Titus 1** use masculine terms (“husband of one wife”) — but so does most of ancient Greek. The grammar reflects culture, not a limitation of divine calling. By that logic, **no unmarried man (like Paul) could be a pastor either** — yet we know he was.

We must interpret with **context**, not just surface literalism.

What About the Great Shaking?

You're right — the shaking is real. But **Scripture and Spirit of Prophecy teach** that the shaking comes not because of “female pastors” — but because of:

- **Neglect of Bible truth** (Testimonies Vol. 1, p. 270)
- **Worldliness, lukewarm faith, and rejection of the Three Angels' Messages**

Messages

- **Persecution, false revivals, and false doctrines**

We are not shaken because people preach — we are shaken because people *stop believing in the power of God's Word and Spirit to speak through whom He chooses.*

"The last message of mercy is to be given by a people who are deeply moved by the Spirit of God. Not one in twenty understands the great issues." — *LDE*, p. 174

The issue is not **gender** — it is **faithfulness to the call of God.**

A Final Word — Not in Strife, but in Truth

Pastor, **if a woman is filled with the Spirit**, teaching truth, and bearing the fruits of Christ — who are we to say, *"She cannot speak. She cannot lead. She cannot baptize. She cannot serve."*

"In Christ there is neither male nor female..." — *Galatians 3:28*

Yes, roles and order matter. But so does the **sovereignty of the Holy Spirit:**

"Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy." — *Joel 2:28*

If God calls, we obey. That includes women — and it includes me.

With respect,

Pastor Ed Anderson

Future of Hope Ministries

"Let all things be done decently and in order." — *1 Corinthians 14:40*

Let it be decent. But let it also be done.