



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

SANTA BARBARA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Santa Barbara Community Church holds that all leadership roles within the church are open to any who meet the spiritual and character qualifications provided throughout the Bible for such leaders,¹ regardless of gender. While certain portions of Scripture may appear to limit the leadership roles available to women within the local church, when held up to the broader scope of Scripture and the Bible's redemptive trajectory, such passages are seen to be contextually situated rather than permanently intended for every time and place.

Scripture supplies ample evidence for qualified and Spirit-gifted women to exercise leadership within the spiritual communities of both Israel in the Old Testament² and the church in the New Testament.³ As those equally created in the image of God into a context originally marked by complementary co-laboring and mutual dignity,⁴ women have played a vital role in the story of redemption from the very beginning⁵ and continue to do so within the local church.

Therefore, Santa Barbara Community Church seeks to be a spiritual family in which all people find opportunities to utilize the gifts given by the Spirit to build up the kingdom of God.⁶ Just as the Holy Spirit's indwelling of believers on the day of Pentecost transcended the kind of boundaries that more commonly mark human institutions,⁷ we believe that opportunities to exercise one's giftedness are not restricted by demographic markers such as age, ethnicity, or gender.

¹ Acts 20:28-31; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9

² Exodus 15:19-21; Judges 4-5; 2 Kings 22:8-20

³ Luke 2:36-38, 8:1-3; Acts 18:24-26; Romans 16:1-16

⁴ Genesis 1:27, 2:18, 20-24

⁵ Genesis 3:15

⁶ Ephesians 4:11-13

⁷ Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:14-18