

Women In Ministry?

What does the Bible say about women speaking in church?

- 1) The 2 main passages people look at to talk about women in ministry are:
 - a) 1 Corinthians 14:33-35
 - b) 1 Timothy 2:11-14
- 2) The entire book of 1 Corinthians contains a diatribe with Paul speaking for the Corinthians. Here's the pattern:
 - a) Paul quotes Corinthians
 - b) Paul answers with a rhetorical question
 - c) Paul gives an answer
- 3) We see the pattern throughout 1 Corinthians:
 - a) 1 Corinthians 1:12-15, 3:4-9, 4:6-13, 6:12-20, 8:8-12, 10:23-30, 14:33-40
 - b) The main point of all these diatribes is to correct divisions and encourage unity in the church at Corinth.
- 5) Jumping to 1 Timothy 2,
 - a) The context is not talking about church.
 - b) The Greek words for "men" and "women" are the same words as "husbands" and "wives," respectively.
- 6) With that last point in mind, let's compare this passage with 1 Peter 3:1-6.
 - a) This is an issue of husbands and wives in the home, not men and women in the church.
 - b) Men, love your wives and treat them with care, not domineering with your strength.
 - c) Women, respect your husbands, making sure to lift them up with your words, and not domineering over them with your words to them or about them.



Questions from March 15, 2026

Ice Breaker

1. Are you a confrontational person? What's your typical response to conflict?
2. How should we as Christians handle differences in beliefs with other believers?

Digging Deeper

3. Check out as many of the passages in 3.a. on the notes side as your group wants. Make sure 14:33-40 is one you read and discuss. Do you see the pattern mentioned in point 2 on the notes side?
4. Take some time to read and compare 1 Timothy 2:11-14 with 1 Peter 3:1-6 as a group.
5. After the last two "Digging Deeper" steps, discuss your positions on the passages and the issue of women in ministry.

Living It Out

6. After discussing where everyone stands on the topic of women speaking in church, read some passages on a topic that the Bible makes a much bigger point about. John 17:21, Rom. 12:5, 1 Cor. 1:10, Gal. 3:28, Eph. 4:3-6, Phil. 2:2, Col. 3:14. How can we create this kind of unity within our hearts towards other, and in our church.
7. Pray for unity and peace with other Christians both in this body of believers and other congregations.