



Can you show me a good Bible example of a woman leading?

Yes, many! In the Bible we find many examples of female leaders. Let's keep it simple and focus on one passage, Ephesians 4:11-12.

*"So Christ himself gave the **apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to EQUIP his people for works of service.**"*

Key Term
Five-fold ministry
Ephesians 4:11-12

APEPT

The Equipper Gifts - people who equip others for ministry

The Apostle Paul lists a series of five equipping jobs in the church, given by Jesus for the purpose of building others up. These gifted people lead, train, teach, and prepare the Body of Christ to impact the world. Do any women in the Bible qualify as equippers? **Yes, many!**

- **A—Apostles** Junia (Romans 16:7) Paul calls her, "outstanding among the apostles." Apostles are people sent as missionaries (like Paul, Silas, and Barnabas - not only the Twelve)
- **P—Prophets** Philip's daughters (Acts 21:9), Anna (Luke 2:36), Miriam (Exodus 15:20), also see Joel 2:28, Deborah (Judges 4:4), Huldah (2 Kings 22:14), wife of Isaiah (Isaiah 8:3)
- **E—Evangelists** Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary mother of James (Matt. 28:8-10, Luke 24:9-10, and John 20:17-18), Samaritan woman (John 4:39)
- **P—Pastors** No males and no females are called "pastor" in the Bible; rather they are called shepherds, whose job it is to nurture the church. The job of "senior pastor" did not exist in the 1st Century church. Female house church leaders included: Phoebe, Chloe, and Nympha.
- **T—Teachers** Priscilla (Acts 18:24)

These outstanding women were commended and praised. They are remembered and honored by the nation of Israel, Jesus, Paul, or the early Church. They are recorded as servants of God (rather than as wives/mothers). They are leaders who were sent, heard from God and spoke, shared the Gospel, shepherded, and instructed.

Nothing in the passages above indicates that God was displeased with these women in their service. NOTHING! No biblical command instructs these godly women to be quiet. Importantly, God did not discourage or stop them.

Other women commended as leaders in the biblical account (and today)

- Eve - Commissioned by God along with her husband Adam to fill the earth and have dominion over it. (Gen. 1-2)
- Miriam - Led worship among the Israelites in the wilderness. (Exo. 15:20)
- Lydia - Opened Europe to the Gospel. Her household was the first church plant in Europe. (Acts 16)
- Phoebe - Called a *deacon* and *prostatis*, a term to describe the highest form of servant leadership. (Rom. 16:1-2)
- Great Commission Women - *Every woman today* who believes Jesus intends for her to obey Matthew 28:19-20.

God is pleased with women who join in his mission to serve and equip other ministers. Men and women, serving shoulder-to-shoulder, was God's original design. Why would anyone discredit or limit servants of God? What kind of person would want to limit God's harvest force?

Conclusion

God is consistent. If we find ONE example of a godly woman leading in Scripture, and God approves them, then God must approve of godly women leading.

4 Crucial Questions
1. What does this teach us about GOD ?
2. What does this teach us about PEOPLE ?
3. What command should I OBEY ?
4. With whom can I SHARE this?