

Biblical Framework for Titus 2 Women's Ministry at Wellington Church: 3 M's

MOTIVATION: What is our motivation for this ministry?

As we look to God's Word as the authority for all of life and ministry, we find four truths that serve as "tent poles" to lend structure to our concept of women's ministry within the church.

Tenant #1: The *Imago Dei*: Men and Women are Created Uniquely

God created man in his own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them (Gen. 1:27)

In the creation account we find a critical Truth about mankind: Men and women were created distinctly from the beginning. While we hold equal value as image-bearers of God, we are not the same. Our differences are meant to illuminate unique truths about who God is. And while many of our deepest needs are universal (ex. Salvation, justification, sanctification, and community) some of our needs are gender-specific as are some of our propensities towards sin.

Tenant #2: Men and Women Have Unique and Complementary Roles Within the Home and Church.

God clearly gives the authority of leading both homes and the Church to men (Ephesians 5:22-23; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 2:8-15; Titus 1:5-9). This is not a commentary on women's value or capability but rather an authority structure that speaks to our unique design.

The original word used is *ezer denegdo*, which translates as "help meet" or "helper" (Gen 2:18). In our sinful world, this is often taken as an insult or indication of inferiority, but as we read the whole counsel of God we find a radically different truth. Elsewhere in Scripture when we read the term helper or *ezer kenegdo*, it is always referring to God. In verses like:

- "Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life" (Psalms 54:4)
- "We can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?'" (Heb. 13:6)
- "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (John 14:26)

Women are essential to the health of our homes and churches. Scripture affirms this with a message that states, in essence, "We couldn't do this without her."

Scripture does not give us a message of female empowerment or male domination but of a unique structure where men and women complement each other in their roles.

Tenant #3: A Proven Method for Effective Discipleship is Gender-Specific and Intergenerational

In Titus 2, Paul gives young pastor Titus a method for how to fight against false teachings in the church. This proven method still works for helping believers understand and live out the Truth of God's Word.

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. (Titus 2:1-6)

Because men and women are created uniquely, we learn and understand uniquely. While men certainly have the authority to teach women spiritual truths (as husbands, fathers, and pastors), women also flourish when they regularly gather around God's Word with other women in varied stages of life, as men flourish when they regularly gather around God's Word with other men in varied stages of life.

Tenant #4: The Church is Dependent on the Gifts of Women

- Throughout Scripture, God used women as ambassadors of Truth and hope including Deborah (Judges 4-5), Abigail (1 Samuel 25), Esther, Ruth, Mary (Matthew 1), Lydia (Acts 16:14), and Priscilla (Acts 18)
- Women were the first ones entrusted with the news that Jesus has risen from the dead (Matthew 28:1-10)

Scripture teaches that God has given each believer gifts and that those gifts should be maximized for the spread of the gospel and the health of the Body of Christ.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace (1 Peter 4:10)

With women making up at least half of the adult population of our church at Wellington and the global Church worldwide, we affirm God's use of women to build His kingdom through Scripture and we seek to recognize and utilize the spiritual gifts of women in order to thrive.

Based on these biblical tenants, The Titus 2 Women's Ministry at Wellington Church operates from this mission:

- We affirm that both men and women bear the image of God, keeping in mind that both genders are equal in their value but distinct in their creation
- We seek to create discipleship and ministry opportunities that embrace differences and provide regular and meaningful opportunities to study God's Word with other women in different generations.
- We believe that Scripture is the ultimate authority in a woman's life. We see knowing and embracing God's Word as a Christian woman's greatest need. To that end, we vow to give women what they need (God's Word) even when it is not what they want.

- We seek to affirm and support the male leadership of our church. We actively teach women to do the same as well as championing and submitting to male authority in their homes and workplaces.
- We believe that women thrive as a result of meaningful relationships with other women. We seek to connect the women of our church and community with each other, with the overt common goal of growing in Christ together. Rather than simply meeting a woman's need to be known, we encourage women to know God and know others.
- We want to create clear on-ramps for discipleship, connection, and service so that all women of Wellington Church know how to get involved.

MANDATE: What has the Lord ordered and commissioned us as believers, and specific to this calling, as a women's ministry to accomplish?

All believers Are Called to Make Disciples and Teach God's Word. In Jesus' final sermon, He commanded believers to:

1. Make Disciples
2. Teach God's Word

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. God therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20).

In Titus 2:3-5, we see that some (not all) discipleship is gender specific. Titus 2 speaks of the high calling of older women to teach younger women how to live for God's glory. In this way, the Titus 2 Women's Ministry is one part of the church's obedience to the Great Commission.

Because of our relational tendencies, women are uniquely able to reach other women with the gospel through relationship. Jesus also points to our universal and constant need to be reminded of His teachings found in His Word. Both men and women have a responsibility to be ambassadors of the gospel and to be committed lifelong students of God's Word. However, because we are created uniquely, we often live out these responsibilities differently.

METHOD: In what ways are we accomplishing answering this mandate?

Wellington Church aims to edify women by equipping them to exercise their God-given gifts. The Titus 2 ministry is a ministry that ministers **TO** women and **BY** women.

The Titus 2 Women's ministry especially ministers to women inside the congregation and outside the body of the church by providing Bible studies, book studies/discussion and monthly fellowship gatherings that focus on building relationships around God's word, especially the gospel.

The ministry outlets are:

- **RefresHER:** The RefresHER is a monthly gathering of Wellington women, which is also open to women in the area. It meets from 9:30 – 11 a.m. on the 2nd Saturday of the month at Wellington Church (there may be occasional breaks for holidays and or summer). We meet for the specific intention of fellowship and to learn about various topics as they relate to God and our knowledge of Him. The purpose of the gathering is for the women to build relationships that biblically edify and encourage each other.
- **Bible Studies:** Bible studies meet more regularly than the monthly RefresHER and seek to equip ladies to dig deeper into God's word for sake of knowledge and godliness. These studies are primarily expositional.
- **Book Studies:** Book studies are similar to the Bible studies in that they meet regularly for the purpose of maturing one's walk with Christ, but it utilizes a biblically based book in the process.
- **Socials:** The Titus 2 Women's ministry holds occasional social events, such as: Annual summer pool parties, Annual Christmas parties, Dinners Out, etc. The purpose of these events is to further relationship building and to provide opportunities for the women to encourage and biblically edify each other.
- **Facebook Group:** The ministry utilizes a Facebook page to communicate with and encourage the women of Wellington church. This page is distinct from the Wellington Church page and is managed by the Women's Leadership team.
- **Service Opportunities:** The ministry oversees a handful of ministry opportunities to the church body (such as meal trains, writing letters of encouragement, etc.). These opportunities are often communicated through the Facebook Page.

The leadership policy is:

Wellington's Titus 2 Women's Ministry will be headed by a Women's Leadership Team consisting of 3 qualified ladies (see below) who have been approved by the elders. These ladies will meet regularly for prayer and planning. They will report on the ministry's activities to the elders and will receive approval from the elders for any funds needed above the budgeted funds for women's ministry's needs/events. The Women's ministry leadership structure can be found below in Appendix 1: Women's Ministry Leadership Structure.

Women's Leadership Qualifications:

We believe that God raises up biblically qualified men, as elders, to lead and give oversight in His church. (1 Timothy 3:1-11). We also believe that women's ministry joyfully falls under the elder body and works closely with the elder charged with the oversight of Women's Ministry and the women's leadership team. The women involved in leading this ministry must also meet and be affirmed in several qualifications:

1. She must be a member of the church in good standing.
2. She must demonstrate godly character and biblical submission.
3. She must have a joyful willingness to serve.
4. If married, there must be approval and support by her husband.
5. She must be devoted to the biblical priorities in the home.
6. She must make ministry leadership responsibilities a priority.
7. She must be willing to sign the Teaching and Leadership Covenant (Appendix 2).

Appendix 1: Women's Ministry Leadership Structure

The women's ministry leadership is comprised of three leadership positions:

1. **The Ministry Leader:** This position is the primary leader of the ministry, serving as the liaison between the elders and the ministry and its leaders.
2. **The Teaching Leader:** This position oversees the ministry's teaching curriculum, its teachers, as well as seeks to find and develop new teachers for the ministry.
3. **The Serving Leader:** This position oversees the ministry's set up for events and opportunities to serve the church body.

These three positions work together to faithfully oversee the women's ministry. Each position has its own unique responsibilities (as seen below), but they work together as a leadership team to ensure the ministry is functioning properly within the church body under the ultimate leadership of the elders.

The Ministry Leader is responsible for:

- Primary communication with the elder's and other ministry heads.
 - Implementing instruction from the elders.
 - Communicating the ministry's needs and direction to the elders.
 - Communicating with other ministries as needed.
- The general direction, administration and oversight of the ministry.
 - Ensuring the ministry is implementing the elder approved Philosophy of Ministry
 - Developing and communicating ministry announcements to the church and ladies to whom the ministry ministers.
 - Ensuring the other ministry leader(s) have what is needed to fulfill their role(s).
 - Evaluation of the ministry goals and implementation.
- Open and ongoing communication with the other Women's Ministry leaders.

The Teaching Leader is responsible for:

- Communicating the teaching decisions being made and why with the ministry leader(s) and ultimately the elders.
- The doctrinal soundness of the curriculum that is utilized, even if self-made.
- The teaching schedule, both the topic being taught and the person who is teaching.
- Development of teachers who teach.
- Finding new teachers to teach.

The Serving Leader is responsible for:

- Communicating the practical needs of the ministry to the ministry leader(s) and ultimately the elders.
- Enlisting appropriately mature women to meet ministry needs.
- Organizing and maintaining the practical service opportunities of the women to the church body (i.e. food trains, letters, etc).

Appendix 2: Wellington Women's Ministry Teacher and Leader Covenant

Thank you for considering the task of teaching/ hosting one of our Women's Bible Studies, OR joining the Titus 2 Women's Ministry Leadership.

We appreciate your investment of time, energy, and resources and trust that you have made this commitment prayerfully.

The Elders at Wellington ask that you sign a covenant before joining the Bible Study Teaching Group, or making a Leadership Commitment (to be repeated annually). The purpose is two-fold.

1. To ensure that we are teaching sound theology in line with the core beliefs of the church as determined by the elders.
2. To ensure that Bible-believing Christians who have disagreements on non-essential (a.k.a. "open handed") issues can learn, worship and grow together because we understand our common ground.

As a teacher or Committee member for the women's ministry of Wellington Church, I affirm that I will, to the best of my ability:

- Defend the core beliefs as decided upon by our elders.
- Especially:
 - The Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are one-God in perfect union.
 - All Scripture is the authority we look to for guidance on what we believe and how we live what we believe
 - Salvation is found through Christ alone
 - As women, we honor our husbands/fathers as the head of our homes, our pastor/ elders as the under-shepherds within the church, and our Lord Jesus as head of the church and our lives.

I will do my best to combine the grace and truth demonstrated by Jesus in my defense of these truths, but I will teach these truths as non-negotiable for disciples of Jesus.

In addition, I will encourage women to look to Scripture as their authority.

Lastly, I commit to this ministry in investing my time in prayer and presence at Titus 2 Women Events when at all possible.

Signed: _____

Date: _____