**Mutual Submission in Christ: Gender Roles in the Church**

**Our agenda:**

1. Week 1: What did women do in the Bible?
2. Week 2: What about 1 Timothy 2 & 1 Corinthians 14?
3. Week 3: What does it look like to live on earth as it is in heaven?

**Our thesis:**

“Relationships in the household of faith are based on the transforming work of the Spirit of Christ. The defensive, competitive, manipulative and domineering relational strategies of the old nature give way to mutual submission and gift-based every member ministry in Christ. The church is no longer bound but free from patriarchal and matriarchal control. Nothing the world has to offer, from traditional male headship to radical feminism, comes close to expressing the new relational dynamic created in Christ Jesus.”

- Doug Webster, *Mutual Submission in Christ*

**Week 1: What did women do in the Bible?**

**Opening Group Question:**

Share about the people in your life who have helped you understand Christianity and follow Jesus.

1. **Rule over creation** – *Genesis 1:26-27:* “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”
2. **Ezer** – *Genesis 2:18*: The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper (Ezer) suitable for him.” *Psalm 33:20:* We wait in hope for the Lord he is our help (Ezer) and our shield.
   1. **Philip Payne (Professor of N.T., Fuller Seminary): “The noun used here [ezer] throughout the Old Testament does not suggest ‘helper’ as in ‘servant,’ but ‘help, savior, rescuer, protector’ as in ‘God is our help.’ In no other occurrence in the Old Testament does this refer to an inferior, but always to a superior or an equal . . . ‘help’ expresses that woman is a help/strength who rescues or saves man.”**
3. **Spiritual Leader** – *Exodus 15:20-21:* “Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron’s sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. Miriam sang to them:“Sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea.”
4. **Congregational Leader** – *Judges 4:4:* Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time.
5. **Prophet above the Prophets** – *2 Kings 22:11-14:* When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes. He gave these orders to Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Akbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king’s attendant: “Go and inquire of the Lord for me and for the people and for all Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the Lord’s anger that burns against us because those who have gone before us have not obeyed the words of this book; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written there concerning us.” Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Akbor, Shaphan and Asaiah went to speak to the prophet Huldah, who was the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem, in the New Quarter.
6. **Preacher in training** – *Luke 10:38-39:* As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said
7. **First witnesses and proclaimers of the resurrected Jesus** – *Luke 24:1-3, 9-10:* On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus…When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles
8. **Gifted by the Holy Spirit for prophesy** – *Acts 2:17:* “‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
9. **Deacon and benefactor** – *Romans 16:1-2:* I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deaconof the church in Cenchreae. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me.
10. **Teacher of Scripture and Theology** – *Acts 18:26:* He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.
11. **Prophet** – *Acts 21:8-9:* Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven. He had four unmarried daughters who prophesies; **1 Corinthians 11:5**: But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is the same as having her head shaved.
12. **Pastor of House Church** – *2 John 1:* The elder, To the lady chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth
13. **Apostle** – *Romans 16:7:* Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was
14. **Church Father John Chrysostom: “To be an apostle is something great. But to be outstanding among the apostles—just think what a wonderful song of praise that is! They were outstanding on the basis of their works and virtuous actions. Indeed, how great the wisdom of this woman must have been that she was even deemed worthy of the title of apostle.”**
15. **Speaking of Junia the apostle, “This too is clearly an authoritative role of Christian leadership that includes teaching doctrine to adult men and women.” – Craig Blomberg (Professor of NT Denver Seminary)**