

RESOURCES

Theology of Ordination Study Committee (TOSC) Final Report

<https://www.adventistarchives.org/final-tosc>

In 2010 the General Conference voted to establish a study commission made up of representatives from around the world to study out the issue of woman's ordination to the pastoral ministry. This document is the full and final report of the Commission. As a result of their work, there were three positions presented to the delegates of the 2015 General Conference: (1) opposed to women in ministry; (2) in favor of women in ministry and ordaining them; and (3) since we have no consensus, allow each division to decide for itself as is culturally and locally appropriate. Only Position 3 was brought to a vote. It was voted down.

This document is a very good way to acquaint oneself with the theological considerations of the issue in the Bible, in history, and in the writings of Ellen White.

“Husband of One Wife” - 1 Tim. 3:2, by Ekkehardt Mueller

<https://adventistbiblicalresearch.org/materials/theology/husband-one-wife-1-tim-32>

Dr. Mueller presents 8 different interpretations of the phrase, “husband of one wife”, and which is most likely aligned with the original intent of Paul based on his other Scripture passages.

Statements from Ellen White

What we observe in Ellen White's writings is that instead of forbidden the practice of women in pastoral ministry, she strongly promoted it, called our leaders to fund it, and throughout her ministry as a messenger of the Lord expanded it.

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 322 (first published in 1901)

It is the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit of God that prepares workers, both men and women, to become pastors to the flock of God.

This agrees with our observation in the Bible earlier that the gifts and fitting of the Holy Spirit, and *not* gender, determine who should be a minister.

An article worth reading in its entirety comes from the *Review & Herald*, July 9, 1895.

“The Laborer Is Worthy of His Hire,” Manuscript 43a, 1898, 5MR 323-327 (Read all).

This article addresses the problem of not paying the wives of pastors a fair wage for their labors in the gospel ministry. One reason offered is if her husband were to die, she may not continue her work as a pastor unless she was already recognized for her work and receiving wages.

She argues further that even children and housework are not sufficient reasons to keep a woman from engaging the gospel ministry (p. 324). And she states emphatically on the next page, “There are women who should labor in the gospel ministry” (p. 325).

When women were refused a just wage for their labors in the gospel ministry, she wrote,

“I will, in the name of the Lord, protest. I will feel it my duty to create a fund from my tithe money to pay these women who are accomplishing just as essential work as the ministers are doing...” (*Daughters of God*, 106; *Pastoral Ministry* 77; *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 5, 29.)

From *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 12, p. 164 (first published in 1990).

“Every soul is precious in God’s sight, and I am wondering what can be done for the destitute fields where the flock of God is without a shepherd.... We need so much just now these fruits of self-denial, to support women missionaries in the field.”

She here calls the financial support of sending female pastors to work the gospel field a “need”.

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, 390.

In 1880, she invited young people to engage in literature evangelism because it can serve as a good education for “men and women to do pastoral labor.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, 229.

“Young men and young women who should be engaged in the ministry, in Bible work, and in the canvassing work, should not be bound down to mechanical employment.”

In *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 1, p. 263

Ellen White makes an allusion to 1 Timothy 5:17-18, a passage interpreted by some as referring to male-only pastors, but she applies it to the role of both men and women in the gospel ministry. First the Scripture, then her statement.

Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages.” 1 Timothy 5:17, 18.

A paid “elder”, is what we call a pastor today. Now Ellen White...

Women, as well as men, are needed in the work that must be done. Those women who give themselves to the service of the Lord, who labor for the salvation of others by doing house-to-house work, which is as taxing as, and more taxing than standing before a congregation, should receive payment for their labor. **If a man is worthy of his hire, so also is a woman.**

Make no mistake in neglecting to correct the error of giving ministers less than they should receive. When you see persons in necessity who have been placed in positions of trust, let God move upon your heart to set things right. **The tithe should go to those who labor in word and doctrine, be they men or women.**

Counsels on Stewardship, p. 102 (first published in *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9 in 1909). See a similar statement at *Special Testimonies for Ministers and Workers*, no. 10, p. 18 (first published in 1897).

A very plain, definite message has been given to me for our people. I am bidden to tell them that they are making a mistake in applying the tithe to various objects which, though good in themselves, are not the object to which the Lord has said that the tithe should be applied. Those

who make this use of the tithe are departing from the Lord's arrangement. God will judge for these things.

One reasons that the tithe may be applied to school purposes. Still others reason that canvassers and colporteurs should be supported from the tithe. But a great mistake is made when the tithe is drawn from the object for which it is to be used—the support of the ministers.

Early Pioneers

G. C. Tenney, "Women's Relation to the Cause of Christ", *Review and Herald*, June 5, 1894. 360.

James White, "Women in the Church", *Review and Herald*, May 29, 1879. 172.

James White, "Women as Preachers and Lecturers," originally by J. A. Mowatt, *Review and Herald*, July 30, 1861, pp. 65-66.

J. N. Andrews, "May Women Speak in Meeting?", *Review and Herald*, Jan. 2, 1879, p. 4.

J. H. Waggoner, "Woman's Place in the Gospel," *Signs of the Times*, Dec. 19, 1878, p. 380.

B. F. Robbins, "To the Female Disciples in the Third Angel's Message," *Review and Herald*, December 8, 1859. 21-22.

D. Hewitt, "Let Your Women Keep Silence in the Churches," *The Review and Herald*, October 15, 1857. 190.

Website

There is one further resource you might wish to acquaint yourself with—the SDA Archives which has all our denominational publications, articles, commissioned articles and reports, General Conference Committee and Session minutes, etc. in one place. They have a great search engine and enough reading to keep you busy until Jesus comes. <https://www.adventistarchives.org/>

Our Church Website

Eight articles have been posted to our new church website: <https://prescottaz.adventistchurch.org>