



## CM505 Women and Men in Leadership

### Short Syllabus

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#### Course description

This course explores the issue of women and men serving together as leaders in the church. Students will survey biblical evidence about women in leadership. Discussion will include differences in the way that women and men tend to think, and challenges that women often face in this role that has historically been dominated by men.

To do well in this course, you will need to spend about 10 hours each week on reading, forum interaction, and writing papers.

#### Required textbooks

#### **TEXTBOOKS TO BE DETERMINED**

Morrison, Michael, editor. *Women in Church Leadership*. Free PDF at <https://www.gci.org/files/Women-all.pdf>. This has been updated and published at [www.smashwords.com/books/view/159506](http://www.smashwords.com/books/view/159506). Either version will be acceptable for this course. These are studies done by Grace Communion International in 2004-2006, showing that Scripture does not forbid women from being pastors and other church leaders.

## Recommended supplemental books

Belleville, Linda L. *Women Leaders and the Church: Three Crucial Questions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2000. 217 pages. Cost: \$8. A good examination of the biblical evidence.

Johnson, Alan F., editor. *How I Changed My Mind About Women in Leadership: Compelling Stories from Prominent Evangelicals*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 2010. ISBN 978-0-310-29315-6. 270 pages. Price: \$12. Autobiographical accounts of evangelical leaders—ethnically diverse men and women from a broad range of denominational backgrounds.

Leach, Tara Beth. *Emboldened*.

Pierce, Ronald W., and Rebecca Merrill Groothuis, editors. *Discovering Biblical Equality: Complementarity Without Hierarchy*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Tannen, Deborah. *You Just Don't Understand*.

## Student learning outcomes for CM505

1. Identify the biblical and historical background of women as leaders, to be informed of the decisions that have governed the acceptance or rejection among the eras where women have been pastors, or were excluded from that role.
2. Describe differences in the way male and female brains process information and emotions, and explain the significance of that for understanding one another and working together, remembering that numerous exceptions exist.
3. Based on Scripture, science, and their own experiences, describe how women and men can work together in leadership in the church.

## Course requirements and assignments

1. Read the lectures. Lectures will be posted each Monday for the first ten weeks. See the *Academic Catalog* for study suggestions. You should read the scripture references in the lectures.
2. Participation. Part of the learning that occurs in traditional classrooms comes through discussion and interaction with other students. In an online class, you attain this through comments posted on a forum. The comments count for 20 percent of the final grade. We expect you to make at least one comment, to read everyone else's comments, *and make at least one reply* in every forum discussion.
3. Read the textbooks. They total about 800 pages, or about 80 pages each week (some weeks more, some less).
4. Papers. These count for 80 percent of the final grade. We estimate that you will need about 60 hours to work on these papers – an average of six hours per week – some weeks more, some less. See articles on how to write papers in the *Academic Catalog*, section VI.
  - A. Book Review and Reaction Paper: *What Does the Bible Say About Women in Church Leadership?* (5 pages; double-spaced). The purpose of this paper is to analyze and interact with the reading.
    - a. Identify the biblical issues presented and how the study papers address them.
    - b. Identify the evidence that seems to be the strongest support for the conclusion of the series, and the evidence that seems less compelling, less useful in explaining the conclusion.
    - c. Paper is due at the end of week 5, and counts for 20 percent of the final grade.
  - B. Book Review and Reaction Paper: (5 pages; double-spaced). The purpose of this paper is to briefly summarize the main points of the author and apply them to a hypothetical situation.

- a. Discuss the issues presented and their persuasiveness or if they fall short and merit further investigation.
- b. Explain how you would counsel a woman who feels a call to pastoral ministry but needs guidance on understanding the call and what it means to be in pastoral ministry in today's world. How would you help her develop a strategy for using her gifts?
- c. Paper is due at end of week 9; 20 percent of grade.

C. Research Paper: (10 pages; double spaced) Student will explain how women and men can serve together in leadership to the church.

- a. Show how nature and nurture influences those roles.
- b. Relate what opportunities you see available for women and men serving together in the church today. How are those opportunities greater or lesser than in the past?
- c. Conclude with your own vision for how women and men in ministry can collaborate effectively within the context of serving together in church leadership.
- d. This paper should quote from and cite all three of the textbooks. Additional research from books or websites is also welcome. See last part of Appendix B.
- e. This paper is due at the end of week 12; it counts for 40 percent of the grade.

5. Here's a chart to summarize the assignments:

Assignments, estimated hours, and grade weighting

Assignment	Hours*	Percentage of grade
Reading the syllabus and lectures	18	0
Reading discussions and making responses	20	20
Reading the textbooks	40	0

Writing one research paper	40	40
Writing two book reviews	20	40
Total – about 12 hours each week	138	100

\* Some students will complete the course requirements in less total time, and some will take more time. These are estimates for the hypothetical “average” student.

## Weekly topics and assignments

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<b>Lectures</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Week 1: Survey of the Old Testament	Larry King Live, “Should Women Be Pastors?” June 14, 2000. <a href="http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0006/14/lkl.00.html">http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0006/14/lkl.00.html</a> <i>Women in Church Leadership</i> , preface through chapter 7 Students introduce themselves on forum
Week 2: The Gospels and Acts	<i>Women in Church Leadership</i> , chapters 8 through 11 Forum discussion
Week 3: Epistles of Paul and Peter	<i>Leadership and the Sexes</i> , Part One (Introduction through chapter 3; pages xvii – 77) Forum discussion <b>Book Report due</b>
Week 4: Women in Church History	<i>Leadership and the Sexes</i> , Part Two (chapters 4-7; pages 81- 122 Forum discussion
Week 5. Differences Between the Sexes	<i>Leadership and the Sexes</i> , Part Three: (chapters 8-10; pages 125-200 Forum discussion
Week 6: Double Standards	<i>Leading Women</i> , Part One: Introduction through chapter 5 (pages 11-89) Forum discussion
Week 7:	<i>Leading Women</i> , Parts Two and Three, Introduction through chapter 12 (pages 93-186)

Sexuality	Forum discussion
Week 8: How Men Can Help Women	<i>She</i> , Introduction and chapters 2-3 (pages xv-xxv, 43-112) Forum discussion
Week 9: How Women Can Help Men	<i>She</i> , chapters 4-5 (pages 117-189) <b>Book report due</b> Forum discussion
Week 10. Serving Together	Research and study for Research Paper due week 12 Forum discussion
<b>Research paper due by the end of Sunday, week 12.</b>	