

Women in Ministry 1.0

Lifepoint Church exists to become a people who draw life from God and point others to him. To that end, we would like to clarify what we believe God's Word teaches us concerning the way women and men relate to one another within the church. This short summary is not intended to cover every scenario, nor is it intended to include and replicate our careful study of the relevant Scripture. Our prayer is that both the women and men of Lifepoint Church would flourish as they serve the body out of their God-given roles and gifts.

Some Scriptural Background

1. We believe...both men and women are created in the image of God and are completely equal in dignity and worth. (cf. Gen. 1:27, 2:5-25)
2. We believe...because of the fall, all men and all women are sinners by nature and by choice. We all need salvation, which we receive freely through trusting the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. In this redemption, both men and women receive the Holy Spirit and are equally heirs of the Kingdom of God (cf. Gen. 3; Rom. 3; Eph. 2; Gal. 3).
3. We believe...that God desires for all men and women to flourish, which we do by gladly submitting to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, revealed to us in the Bible. In the Scriptures, we see that God has ordained distinct roles for men and women. This view is often referred to as Complementarianism. When practiced rightly, we believe that the men and women in a local church will flourish by submitting to and expressing a complementarian view. We acknowledge that we will not always get this right, but our hope and prayer is that our continual reliance upon the grace of Christ will allow us to recognize and to repent of any sin in our teaching or practice, whether it be too conservative or too liberal (cf. Luke 6:12-16; Acts 1:21-26, 14:23 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, 14:33-40; Gal. 3; 1 Tim. 2:11-14; Titus 1:5-9).

Specific Applications of Lifepoint's View

1. We believe...that God has given the office of Elder/Pastor to the church, and God has restricted that office to qualified men. The pastors of a local church are ultimately responsible to shepherd and oversee the church's teaching, direction, and its ordinances of baptism and communion (cf. Luke 6:12-16; Acts 1:21-26, 14:23 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, 14:33-40; 1 Tim. 2:11-14; Titus 1:5-9).
2. We believe...that women are described in the New Testament as significant co-laborers in ministry, as praying and prophesying both inside and outside the gathered assembly, as financially supporting ministry, as fully responsible learners of the Scriptures, and as teaching and correcting both men and women outside the gathered assembly. Thus, we strongly encourage all the men and all the women of Lifepoint to seek opportunities to study the Word, to grow in holiness, and to seek to edify the body through the variety of gifts, including teaching one another. Because of the Pastors' responsibility to shepherd and oversee the church's teaching, we believe that the vast majority of teaching when the church is "gathered" for corporate worship should come from one of Lifepoint's Pastors. On some Sunday church gatherings, we believe that the Scriptures permit a godly layperson (man or woman) to share out of the Word, doing so under the authority of the Pastors who will very likely give an introduction and conclusion for the guest speaker. Additionally, when the church is "scattered" into various informal gatherings (including all Lifegroups and Bridge groups), we encourage both men and women to teach and encourage one another out of God's Word (cf. John 20:17-18; Acts 1:4, 17-18; Acts 9:36, 12:12, 18:25-26; 21:9; Rom. 16:1-12; 1 Cor. 11:4-5; Col. 3:12-17; James 3:1)
3. We believe...that the ordinances of communion and baptism should be overseen by the Pastors, but they don't have to be administered by the Pastors. Specifically, Lifepoint allows any Lifegroup leader or ministry leader (i.e. LPKids Director, etc.) to baptize someone

who has been determined by the Pastors or their designate as having a credible profession of faith. However, if the baptismal candidate is 13 years or older, we require that the Lifegroup leader be the same sex as the candidate. Regarding communion, we believe that communion in the corporate gathering should be officiated by a Pastor. But any member in good standing can help to serve the elements (cf. Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:37-41; 1 Cor. 11:17-34; 1 Pt. 5:1-5).