

# La Posicion de la Mujer an la Iglesia

## The Role of Women in the Church

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A TRAVEZ DE LA HISTORIA LA MUJER ha sido relegada a un Segundo lugar en la sociedad. Nuestro contexto cultural no es diferente a otro contexto. De la misma manera la iglesia refleja lo que esta pasando en la sociedad secular en general. La mayoría de las veces, los talentos y ministerios de la mujeres no ha sido reconocido por muchas iglesias locales y denominaciones. Muchos lideres de nuestras iglesias usan la Biblia para justificar su discriminación en contra de la mujer. En nuestro contexto esta situación es bastante molesta porque la mayoría de las iglesias en nuestro contexto dependen de mujeres para funcionar como iglesias. Yo diría que por lo menos 80% de los miembros de nuestras iglesias son mujeres, pero el liderato esta en las manos de los hombres. La mayoría de las iglesias prefieren un hombre como su pastor que una mujer como pastora. En algunas denominaciones las mujeres no se le permite predicar o ocupar posiciones de liderato en la iglesia. Pero gracias a Dios, en otras denominaciones el ministerio de la mujer es reconocido. Yo creo que Dios llama a mujeres y hombres para desarrollar diferentes ministerios en su obra. En la carta del apostol Pablo a los Efesios capitulo cuatro, versos once y doce dice: “Y el mismo constituyo a uno apostoles, a otros profetas; a otros evangelistas; a otros, pastores y maestros, a fin de perfeccionar a los santos para la obra del ministerio, para la edificacion del cuerpo de Cristo.” En este texto no hay ninguna evidencia de que el cuerpo de Cristo se componga solo de hombres. Si leemos en Galatas capitulo tres, verso veintyocho vemos lo siguiente: *Ya no hay Judío ni Griego; no hay esclavo ni libre; no hay varon ni mujer; porque todos nosotros somos uno en Cristo Jesus.* Esto me confirma que los ministerios que Dios da son para todos; hombres y mujeres. Aqui

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, women have been placed in a secondary level in our society. Our cultural context as Latinos and Latinas is not different from other contexts. In the same way, the church reflects what is happening in the secular society at large. Most of the time, the talents and ministries of women have not been recognized by many local churches nor by our denomination. Many church leaders even use the Bible to justify their discrimination against women. This situation is very uncomfortable because most churches depend on women to be able to function. I would say that eighty percent of the members of our churches are women, but the leadership is in the hands of men. Most churches prefer a male pastor to a female pastor. In some denominations, women are not permitted to preach or to hold any position of leadership in the church. But, thank God, that in other denominations the ministry of women is recognized. God calls men and women to do God’s will. In the letter of the Ephesians 4:11–12, we read that *the gifts God gave was that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.* Here we do not see that God makes differences between men or women to build up the body of Christ.

In the Bible we can find many extraordinary women who did extraordinary feats to benefit their nations, but I only want to mention one of them. Esther was one example of a woman who, through her heroic deed, saved the life of the entire nation of Israel. Esther was an orphan, a young woman who was raised by her uncle Mordecai. We do not know much about Mordecai. We know that he was a man who trusted God and raised his niece, whom he had adopted as his own daughter. Mordecai educated Hadassah, her Hebrew name, to be faith-

no vemos que Dios hace diferencia entre hombres o mujeres para formar parte de su cuerpo.

En la Biblia podemos encontrar extraordinarias mujeres que que hicieron extraordinario trabajo para beneficiar el pueblo de Dios. Yo solo quisiera mencionar un caso; me refirero a Ester. Ester fue un ejemplo que con su heróico valor salvo la vida de el pueblo de Israel. Ester era de una familia pobre. Su verdadero nombre era Hadasa, pero tuvo que ocultar su identidad por un tiempo, para lograr su proposito. Ester lleo de la pobreza a ser la reina de Persia. Ella surgío de la pobreza hasta convertirse en una mujer poderosa. Dios la levanto del anonimato a la fama. Ese poder ella lo uso no para su propio beneficio, sino para ayudar a otros. Ester nunca nego su identidad de mujer de fe. Aunque el libro de Ester es el único libro de la Biblia que no menciona el nombre de Dios, Dios fue quien la guio a convertirse en la libertadora de su pueblo. Ester se enfrento a muchos barreras y dificultades en su trayectoria. Cuando tuvo que poner su vida en peligro para defender su pueblo, no basilo en hacerlo. Mucha gente se olvidan de donde han venido, cuando logran colocarse en un puesto elevado en la sociedad y no hacen nada por el veneficio a su raza. Ester no fue asi.

Si Ester estuviera entre nosotros y viera como en muchas iglesias tratan las mujeres, se sentiria triste. Creo que ella lucharía por la igualdad de los derechos de la mujer en la iglesia y en la sociedad. En la actualidad tenemos muchas mujeres que desarrollan ministerios muy fructiferos en iglesias locales, asi como a nivel nacional e internacional. Las mujeres tenemos la capacidad de desarrollar todo tipo de de ministerio; esto incluye predicar, enseñar y ejercer el ministerio pastoral y evangelistico.

Hermanos y hermanas; si nosotros estudiamos la Biblia sin una mentalidad machista, podriamos entender que Dios no hace diferencia entre hombre o mujer para llevar a cabo sus planes. Cuando Dios quiere hacer algo, Dios no mira si tu eres un hombre o una mujer. Dios mira tu disposicion, tu voluntad y tu entrega para hacer el trabajo. Jesucristo vino a establecer un reino egalitario, donde todos seamos uno. Imitemos a Ester y a otras mujeres lideres de la Biblia y dejemos a un lado el egocentrismo y el machismo. Dediquemonos a continuar

ful to God. She went up from anonymity to become the Queen of Persia and from poverty to become a powerful woman. But she never denied her identity or her love for God.

Many people forget where they came from when they reach a higher social, economical, or educational position in the society. Other people do not treat their friends the same when they have reached an ecclesiastical position in their local church or in their denomination. Esther became the Queen of 120 provinces of the Empire, but kept her humility. For a period of time, Esther had to hide her real name, but she did it with a defined purpose. God had something special planned for her. God used Esther to preserve lives, even though the name of God is not mentioned in her book. When God has a plan to be done, women are in the same position as men.

You may ask: How did Esther achieve all of this? First of all, she was obedient to God. Second, she did the will of the Living God in her life. Third, she learned to listen to the suggestions of her uncle Mordecai. Fourth, she was willing to risk her own life for the benefit of her people, and she did it with courage. Fifth, she was patient and persistent; also she learned how to wait and to trust God. Sixth, Esther kept her integrity at all times. These, and many other qualities, helped Esther achieve what she wanted. She never gave up on her original plans. In our days, we also have many women who are developing fruitful ministries and leaderships in local churches as well as at national levels. Women have the ability to develop all kinds of roles in the church, starting from taking care of others, preaching, and teaching as the function of pastors.

Dear brothers and sisters, if we study the Bible without a machisme mentality, we may learn that God does not make differences between men and women when God wants to do something. If you and I put our lives and our plans in the hands of the Lord, we can achieve great things for ourselves, our families, our church, and our society. If we trust God and persist in our prayers, we can obtain our goals. God wants us to become women and men who can change the course of our society. God wants us to be role models in our workplaces, in our homes, and wherever we are. If we submit our-

construyendo el reino de Dios aqui en la tierra. El Señor Jesucristo dijo: *Un mandamiento nuevo os doy; que os ameis uno a los otros* Juan 13:34.

Que Dios Les bendiga.

elves to God the way Esther did, we can obtain many blessings for our society. God has called us to become lifesavers in this modern society like Esther did in her time. The role of women in the church is very important and necessary. A church without the leadership of women is a dead church. I would say that without the role of women in the church, the church would not survive for a long time.

Let's imitate Esther and other women from the Bible, obtaining the qualifications in order to make the difference in our churches as well as in our society in general.

May the God of Esther, my God, and your God bless you abundantly. As Jesus Christ says: *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.*



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