

11. Phoebe, Lydia & Women Leaders in the Church

The fabric of your life determines your qualifications for leadership

“Women must likewise be dignified or worthy of respect; not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.” 1 Timothy 3:11

Identifying leaders takes time and observation

Look for women worthy of respect

- Is she respected by the other ministry leaders in the church for who she is and how she behaves?
- Is she known as being cooperative and a team player?
- Is she more interested in the goals of the ministry than in her own agenda?
- Is she submissive to authority? Can she follow the proper procedure for dealing with issues by going through the biblical authority structure for the church body?
- Example of Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2)
- Example of Lydia (Acts 16:13-40)

Look for women who are not malicious gossips

- One who is able to hold her tongue—not sharing sensitive information in inappropriate settings.
- One who uses discernment about sharing information that may sound critical or complaining regarding anything that deals with any ministry of the church.
- One who has the support of her husband, if married.

Look for women who are temperate (sober, awake and aware, well-balanced)

What keeps us balanced?

- **Telling** God our concerns.
- **Listening** to Him while...
- **Reading** what He has already said to us.
- **Trusting** Him while...
- **Waiting** for Him to work through any situation.

Look for women who are faithful in all things

Tertullian, a theologian, who lived during the second century, wrote of the spiritual wealth and worthiness of Christian women. And how their modesty and simplicity was a rebuke to and a reaction from the shameless extravagancies of the immoralities of heathen women. Christian women were the most conspicuous examples of the transforming power of Christianity. This inspired admiration and astonishment from a pagan writer who exclaimed, "What women these Christians have!"