



**REASON #5:  
THE CHURCH  
REPRESSES WOMEN**

# The Early Church Valued Women

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**Romans 16 gives us a window into what was happening in the first century church. At a very patriarchal time in human history, women had a lot of influence in the church. Paul wasn't just vaguely aware of that: he knew many of them by name; he knew how they were contributing; and he was clearly happy about it. One of the reasons this is such an emotionally-charged issue is that, many women have been mistreated by churches and church people. Sometimes, the way that church leaders speak about women is disrespectful and condescending—maybe not blatantly, but their opinions and ideas aren't taken as seriously as those of men. Sometimes, women have been subjected to crass sexual humor, and Christian leaders have winked at it, or looked the other way.**

# Where Have We Gotten it Wrong?

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**We have wonderfully gifted and talented women who are standing on the sidelines, waiting for someone to notice their gifting and give them a chance. Young women who are waiting for someone to see them and save them from the situation they are in. Married women who are trapped in abuse. Women unable to have children who have been made to feel less of a woman because of it. Single women who go unnoticed because there is no man to make them whole? Yes, I support the Chapel's position of reserving the role of pastor and elder for men and think it's based on an honest interpretation of Scripture. But I also believe we have done a disservice to many women and that is a major loss for the church.**

*- Heather Horn*

# How Can We Get it Right?

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**We need to start empowering our women because Jesus did. Jesus honored women and respected women which did not align with the culture of his time. Another local ministry leader I interviewed said it like this, “If we don’t start to do small things, use certain verbiage, esteem the women in leadership publicly and in small ways we will never move forward.” I think we put each other in boxes and limit the abilities and talents God gave us all. I think we get a more well-rounded full picture of who God is when we invite both male and females to the table to do ministry together.**

*- Heather Horn*

**I realize this is a very emotional issue.**

**I realize some of you do not agree with the how The Chapel approaches it.**

**But I hope you'll see that we take it very seriously, and we do our best to allow Scripture to guide us, and there's an atmosphere of high respect among the men and women in our leadership.**

**Pastor Dave Gustavsen**

# Done with Church

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**TIME TO LEAN IN, LISTEN, & LEARN**