

## RESOLUTION ON VALUE OF WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Women are vital in the life and ministry of the church. "A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised" (Proverbs 31:30). As Regular Baptists, we affirm the following from Scripture:

- God made women in His image (Genesis 1:27) as equals to men, designed to be valuable helpers in a complementarian partnership (Genesis 2:18).
- God designed men and women for mutual dependence on one another, fulfilling the roles for which they have been created. (1 Corinthians 11:11-12; Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Timothy 2:8-14)
- God gives pastoral leadership to men, but women may serve and lead in the church to the extent that they do not teach or have authority over men. (1 Timothy 2:12-14; Titus 2:3-5)
- God gives pastors to equip the saints (men and women) for the work of the ministry. (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- When these men and women fulfill the work of the ministry, it builds up the church toward mature Christlikeness. (Ephesians 4:12-13)

Leaders carry roles of influence, and God has used women to lead in many influential ways that must not be overlooked or devalued. Throughout the Old Testament, God used women in leadership through prophecy, wisdom, and courage (i.e., Judges 4-5, Ruth 1-4, 1 Samuel 1-2). Women were also key characters in the gospels (i.e., Luke 23:27-31) and early church (i.e., Acts 16:14-15, Romans 16:1-3). God continues to use women in the church today to bring their spiritual gifts (Romans 12:6) and contribute in unique and vital ways (1 Corinthians 12:14-26).

Women have powerful impact, able to build up or tear down (Proverbs 14:1). Godly women are trusted (Proverbs 31:11), beneficial (Proverbs 31:12), hard workers (Proverbs 31:13-14), strong (Proverbs 31:17, 25), generous (Proverbs 31:20), dignified (Proverbs 31:25), wise and kind (Proverbs 31:26), and caring and invested (Proverbs 31:27). Just as Timothy was raised by Lois and Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5), women are instrumental in raising up their own children in the faith. God is our helper (Hebrews 13:6, John 14:26), women are also helpers to their husbands, serving alongside them and bringing perspective and wisdom.

Godly women are strong in character, emotions, and relationships. They are valuable for serving the church in many ways, including but not limited to leading, teaching, and discipling women and children, hospitality, visitation, evangelism, worship, prayer, giving, missions, and the *one anothers* of relationships in the body of Christ. They bring great joy and influence in the life of the church.

We, the messengers of Regular Baptist Ministries meeting in annual conference, June 23-26, 2025, in Elgin, Illinois, exhort repentance of any attitudes that devalue and overlook women. We resolve to recognize and appreciate women for their inherent value and the value they bring to the church as they lead and serve. We commit to fostering and championing this mentality of appreciation in our homes and churches. We purpose to involve and encourage women in service according to God's perfect design.