Doctrine of Women

The New Testament Teaching

1. In the will and providence of the Lord, women give birth, despite sorrow in childbirth due to the curse.

   • Matthew 11:11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

2. The greatest birth was the birth of the Messiah.

   • Luke 1:28 And the angel came in unto her [Mary], and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

3. While Mary was blessed among women she was not blessed above them to the point of deification or worship.

   • Luke 1:42 And she [Elizabeth] spake out with a loud voice, and said [to Mary], Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

4. During the ministry of Christ, when He fed the multitudes He fed both men and women and the children. Such is the compassion of His heart.

   • Matthew 14:21 And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

   • Matthew 15:38 And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children.

5. In prophetic language Jesus foretold the great tribulation and used women hard at work by way of illustration.

   • Matthew 24:41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

6. Women followed Christ throughout His public earthly ministry in order to take care of His needs.

   • Matthew 27:55 And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him:

   • Mark 15:41 (Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem.
7. Godly women followed Christ to the Cross with tears.
   - Luke 23:27 And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him.

8. Godly women lingered at the foot of the Cross while Jesus died.
   - Mark 15:40 There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome;
   - Luke 23:49 And all his acquaintance, and the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things.

9. Godly women watched to see where Christ was buried.
   - Luke 23:55 And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid.

10. Women were the first to be at the tomb on resurrection morning, the first to be told Christ was alive, the first to behold the resurrected Christ and the first to inform others. What a place of honor they hold in church history.
   - Matthew 28:5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.
   - Luke 24:10 It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.
   - Luke 24:24 And certain of them which were with us [such as Peter and John] went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him [Jesus] they saw not.

11. One reason why the women were present at the Cross and at the grave site on resurrection morning is because of the miracle of redeeming grace they had experienced. One example is that of Mary, called Magdalene.
   - Luke 8:2 And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,

12. On the day of Pentecost godly women were found with the apostles in prayer waiting for the promise of the power of the Holy Spirit.
   - Acts 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

13. Following the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost the Lord added to the church on a daily basis men and women who believed the gospel and were converted.
Acts 5:14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women).

14. As women shared in gospel privileges such as personal salvation, healing miracles, prayer, and receiving the power from on high so they shared in the hardships and persecution of the gospel.

Acts 8:3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

Acts 22:4 And I [as Saul of Tarsus] persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.

15. Despite the threat of suffering women continued to come to Christ for salvation.

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 9:2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

Acts 13:50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

16. The apostles were not opposed to ministering exclusively to women if the opportunity arose.

Acts 16:13 And on the Sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

17. God honors specialized ministry to women.

Acts 17:4 And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

18. The gospel saves women of all ages and nationalities.

Acts 17:12 Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

19. Some women can and do commit the most vile of offenses towards God including the sin of lesbianism.

Romans 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:
20. In the church of Corinth when the women began to become disruptive in the service Paul had to write to tell them to be silent during worship.

- *1 Corinthians 14:34* Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

- *1 Corinthians 14:35* And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

21. In the dissemination of the gospel Paul speaks of those women who labored with him in advancing the cause of Christ.

- *Philippians 4:3* And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

22. When some women in the church were not being as modest as they might nor as humble as the riches of God’s material grace allowed, Paul reminded them of how they should act.

- *1 Timothy 2:9* In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

23. Ladies of redeeming grace should always be characterized by good works.

- *1 Timothy 2:10* But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

24. It was apostolic concern that caused Paul to remind the church to respect all women. The older ladies in the congregation are to be regarded as mothers while the younger women are to be treated in the same manner a man would want someone to treat his sister.

- *1 Timothy 5:2* The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

25. In the context of who should be supported by the church for economic reasons Paul gives his personal pastoral counsel. It does not seem to have the same universal force as a “Thus saith the Lord.”

- *1 Timothy 5:14* I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

On another occasion when it seems he is giving his pastoral counsel on a matter Paul adds that he believes he does have the mind of the Spirit of God. *1 Corinthians 7:40* But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God. By way of a personal note, I believe it is possible for a Christian mother who works to “marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.” I have watched my wife do this for the past twenty-eight years.
26. It is possible for women with too much time on their hands to be led astray into sin.

- 2 Timothy 3:6 *For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts.*

27. The older women have a responsibility to the younger women in the church to teach them godliness by practice and then by precept.

- Titus 2:3 *The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;*

- Titus 2:4 *That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,*

It is instructive that women must be taught to love their husbands, especially in arranged marriages, and to love their children, for maternal love is not as natural as might be expected. The abortion industry proves this to be true.

28. Great faith produces great results in ladies of grace.

- Hebrews 11:35 *Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:*

29. Christian women who understand the divine order of creation and the need for a final spiritual authority in the home can receive the Doctrine of Submission with a happy heart.

- 1 Peter 3:5 *For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:*

30. In the book of the Revelation unusual creatures have long lovely hair such is found on a woman of great youth and beauty but hideous teeth.

- Revelation 9:8 *And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.*

31. In the Jewish economy intimacy could make a person ceremonially unclean for worship, which is probably what is in view in Revelation 14:4.

- Revelation 14:4 *These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.*
Should Christian Women Work Outside the Home?

1. The Bible teaches that some issues arise in the church which falls under the category of “doubtful things.”

   - Romans 14:1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. 2 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. 3 Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. 4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? To his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. 5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. 6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. 7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. 8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

2. An issue may be considered to be a doubtful issue when there is no clear biblical teaching on a matter which has been universally recognized by the church throughout church history.

3. A modern question arises in the church and the question is this:

   - “Should Christian women work outside the home?”

   - Perhaps the question is too broad. Perhaps what is really being asked is something else such as, “Should married Christian women work outside the home?”

   - But maybe even putting the matter that way is still too broad and so the question is posed in a more narrow way. “Should married Christian women with children work outside the home?”

4. What is wanted is a clear biblical answer. Nothing else can satisfy the soul of the Christian.

5. Of course, the real question must be addressed in order for there to be any hope of resolving the issue for it is obvious that Christians are going to come to different conclusions about each of these questions as they are posed.

6. For example. The first question to address would be, “Should Christian women work outside the home?”

7. When stated this broadly I would argue that the Word of God addresses women in a variety of contexts from Genesis to Revelation and no where is there a divine prohibition stating plainly and in a universal way that women are absolutely forbidden to work outside the home.
8. It is a good regulatory principle of Christian ethics to say that what the *Word of God* directly forbids by way of precept or indirectly forbids by way of principle should not be done.

9. For example, no Christian should be a practicing homosexual. It is plainly forbidden. No Christian should engage in fornication or adultery. No Christian should lie, cheat or steal. No Christian should date or marry an unbeliever. All this is clearly forbidden in *Scripture*.

10. Conversely, it is a good regulatory principle of Christian ethics to embrace the position that what the *Word of God* does not prohibit is allowed, again as long as no spiritual principle is violated.

11. With these regulatory principles in mind the following observation is made.

12. If a church congregation concludes that it is biblically wrong for a Christian woman to work outside the home by way or precept or principle then in order to be faithful to that conviction and in order to protect the integrity of the congregation and the ministry of the *Word* no Christian woman who works outside the home has a right to officially join the congregation or take part in any type of position of service within the local body for they would be in open defiance of the *Word of God*.

13. In addition in order to maintain doctrinal purity and the integrity of the congregation any woman who begins to work outside the home for whatever reason would of necessity become subject to church discipline according to the pattern of Matthew 18.

   • First the working woman should be spoken to in private and forbidden to work outside the home because the church leadership and the congregation has come to the conclusion it would be a violation of the precept and principle of the Word of God.

   • Second, the erring working woman should be confronted by two or more witnesses if she has not listened to the concern of the private confrontation.

   • Third, the working woman who is violating a known biblical precept or principle must be placed under church disciplined before the whole assembly.

   • If the offending working woman still will not give up her job and return to the house she is to be treated as a heathen for defying the church and the *Scriptures*. Her work outside the home would not be noble but scandalous.

14. If a congregation sincerely believes that the *Word of God* teaches that every Christian women is not to work outside the home then there is no room for compassion for biblical principles of righteousness are absolute and non-negotiable. A working woman must be disciplined.
15. But perhaps the issue is not whether just any Christian woman is free to work outside the home. Perhaps the issue is that no married Christian women should work outside the home.

16. In other words, freedom is allowed for young Christian women to work outside the home provided they are not married. However, the day of their marriage they must give up their outside job to devote themselves exclusively to their husband, keeping the household in order and looking after the children if and when they are conceived and arrive in the providence of God.

17. If the position is taken that only married Christian women should not work outside the home then the church of necessity must again discipline any woman who marries and refuses to give up her job for if she did not she too would be in open defiance of both the Word of God and the position of the congregation.

18. However, it may be that what is really being contended for is that a married Christian woman with children must not work outside the home. Perhaps this is the biblical principle contended for and it is non-negotiable. Since it is non negotiable there is no room for compassion.

- No compassion, toleration or allowance could ever be shown to a Christian woman who becomes a single mother and wanted to work to provide for her little one(s). Such a person must of necessity be placed under church discipline immediately for biblical principles are non negotiable.

- No compassion, toleration or allowance could to be shown to a divorced woman with a child to feed, clothe and educate. Such a person must of necessity be placed under church discipline immediately if she went to work for her place is in the home for biblical principles are non negotiable.

- No compassion, toleration or allowance could be shown to a woman who has widowed early in life (i.e., under sixty) but must still find a way to pay the bills and take care of her fatherless children for biblical principles are non negotiable –. Christian mothers must remain inside the home.

19. Perhaps one reason why the Word of God does not make an issue of women working in or outside the home by way of a divine prohibition is because God will have compassion on unmarried women. God will have compassion on single mothers. God will show mercy to divorced women. God will have compassion on widows and even households that need a second income in order to survive in a given economy. In fact Proverbs 31 indicates God will honor the industrious woman who has good business acumen and her children will rise up and call her blessed. Proverbs 31:16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.
When Christian women, be they unmarried, married, divorced or widowed pray and plead for a job to help take care of their little ones God seems to answer those prayers and open doors of opportunity for a source of income so Christian women and their children do not become a ward of the state or a charity case of the church.

I believe this to be true from personal experience. My own mother raised three children by herself in Dallas, Texas after she removed herself and the children from an abusive alcoholic stepfather. She went to work to put food on the table, clothes on our back and a roof over our heads. Was she sinning by working outside the home? Was she violating the known will of God? Did God not answer her prayers for a job to take care of her children?

20. If a congregation sees the necessity of being consistent in calling married Christian women in general to repentance and forcing them by threat of church discipline to return to their homes new temptation arises for much evil especially if exceptions are allowed for single mothers, divorced mothers with children or widowed mothers.

21. For example, a married women who loves her husband might feel compelled to divorce her husband in order to be able to continue to help support the children especially if his own income suffered by cuts or his job was lost but she could find employment.

22. I would like to suggest that no lady of God’s redeeming grace who stays home should feel ashamed or embarrassed. If she is single and can afford to stay home, she does no wrong. If she is married and stays home, she does no wrong. If she is married with children and stays home, she does no wrong.

23. Conversely, no lady of God’s redeeming grace who wants to or is compelled to work outside the home should feel ashamed or embarrassed.

24. To make this issue a matter of spirituality, to make this a matter of division within the body of Christ is as intrinsically wrong as it can be.

25. Is there any solution to the controversy? The short answer is, “Yes.”

26. First, let all of God’s people conceded there are doubtful issues within the body of Christ.

27. A matter may not be doubtful to a particular Christian but an issue can be doubtful to the congregation and therefore must be handled according to gospel terms of grace, love, longsuffering and compassion.

28. What should be said to a man who believes his own wife should not work outside the home?

29. The biblical answer is to honor that position for in as far as individuals are persuaded in their own conscience about a doubtful thing they do it as unto the Lord.

30. What should be said to a man who believes his own wife has freedom to work outside the home?
31. The biblical answer is to honor that position and not stand in self righteous judgment upon anyone who is in the company of the committed.

32. What is to be said to a Christian woman who believes she should not work outside the home?

33. The biblical answer is to honor that position for in as far as individuals are persuaded in their own conscience about a doubtful thing they do it as unto the Lord.

34. What is to be said to a Christian woman who believes she has the freedom to work outside the home?

35. The biblical answer is to honor that position for in as far as individuals are persuaded in their own conscience about a doubtful thing they do it as unto the Lord.

36. With these thoughts in mind what are the arguments set forth by those who believe Christian women (especially with children?) should not work outside the home and what are the biblical arguments for giving women freedom to work outside the home?

37. For those who argue Christian women should not work outside the home the following New Testament passage(s) might be appealed to.

- **1 Timothy 5:14** I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

**Response.** On another occasion when it seems Paul is giving his pastoral counsel on a matter he adds that he believes he does have the mind of the Spirit of God. **1 Corinthians 7:40** But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God. He does not use such language here.

By way of a personal note, I believe it is possible for a Christian mother who works outside the home to “marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.” I have watched my wife do this over the past twenty-eight years.

- **Titus 2:3** The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; 4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

**Response.** It is possible for a Christian mother who works outside the home to “be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children.”

- **1 Peter 3:5** For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

**Response.** It is possible for a Christian mother who works outside the home to be “in subjection unto their own husbands”.


38. For those who argue Christian women should be allowed to work outside the home without being subject to church discipline or social shame the following New Testament passage(s) might be appealed to.

- **Acts 16:14** And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

**Comment.** While this passage does not address the marital status of Lydia it does indicate at the very least a righteous woman who was engaged in what was considered to be a specialized and lucrative commercial enterprise. If a Christian woman is not to work outside the home then the worship of this woman would have been honored. There is no reason to assume Lydia gave up her business acumen following her conversion.

- **Matthew 5:13** Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

**Comment.** If all the Christian female school teachers, nurses, doctors, engineers, bookkeepers, professors, researchers etc married and unmarried alike were taken out of the work force, society would be much worse than it is.

39. No major doctrine should be constructed on silence. Since there is no command for women not to work outside the home Christian liberty should be allowed. Beyond that every person should be led by the Holy Spirit faithful to their own conscience but without censuring others or being censured.
Some Interesting Questions

1. Should the church be responsible for meeting the financial needs of widows?

2. The biblical answer is both yes and no. A widow is not to be supported by the church unless she meets the following conditions.

   - 1 Timothy 5:9 Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man, 10 Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work. (KJV)

   - 1 Timothy 5:9 A widow who is put on the list for support must be a woman who is at least sixty years old and was faithful to her husband. 10 She must be well respected by everyone because of the good she has done. Has she brought up her children well? Has she been kind to strangers? Has she served other Christians humbly? Has she helped those who are in trouble? Has she always been ready to do good? (NLT)

3. What should widows under sixty do?

   - 1 Timothy 5:11 But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; 12 Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. 13 And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. 14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. 15 For some are already turned aside after Satan. (KJV)

   - 1 Timothy 5:11 The younger widows should not be on the list, because their physical desires will overpower their devotion to Christ and they will want to remarry. 12 Then they would be guilty of breaking their previous pledge. 13 Besides, they are likely to become lazy and spend their time gossiping from house to house, getting into other people's business and saying things they shouldn't. 14 So I advise these younger widows to marry again, have children, and take care of their own homes. Then the enemy will not be able to say anything against them. 15 For I am afraid that some of them have already gone astray and now follow Satan. (NLT)

4. When is the church to start supporting widows?

   Answer: When they are sixty years of age and all alone without relatives to care for them.

   - 1 Timothy 5:16 If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.

   - 1 Timothy 5:16 If a Christian woman has relatives who are widows, she must take care of them and not put the responsibility on the church. Then the church can care for widows who are truly alone. (NLT)
There are at Least One Hundred and Sixty Seven
Proper Names of Women of the Bible

A
1. Abigail
2. Abijah
3. Abishag
4. Abital
5. Achsah
6. Ada
7. Adah
8. Ahinoam
9. Ahlai
10. Aholah
11. Aholiamah
12. Aholibah
13. Aholibamah
14. Anammelech
15. Anna
16. Apphia
17. Asenath
18. Asherah
19. Ashtoreth
20. Atarah
21. Athaliah
22. Azubah

B
23. Bashemath
24. Bath-sheba
25. Bathshua
26. Bernice
27. Billah
28. Bithiah

C
29. Candace
30. Chloe
31. Claudia
32. Concubine
33. Cozbi
34. Cushite

D
35. Damaris
36. Deborah
37. Delilah
38. Diana
39. Diblaim
40. Dinah
41. Dorcas
42. Drusilla
43. Eglah
44. Elisabeth
45. Elisheba
46. Elizabeth
47. Ephah
48. Ephratah
49. Ephrath
50. Esther
51. Eunice
52. Euodia
53. Euodias
54. Eve

F

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G

55. Gomer
56. Hadassah
57. Hagar
58. Haggith
59. Hammoleketh
60. Hamutal
61. Hannah
62. Hazelelponi
63. Hazzelelponi
64. Helah
65. Hephzibah
66. Herodias
67. Hodesh
68. Hoglah
69. Huldah

I

70. Iscah
71. Ishtar

J

72. Jael
73. Jecoliah
74. Jedidah
75. Jehoaddan
76. Jehosheba
77. Jemima
78. Jerioth
79. Jerusha
80. Jezebel
81. Joanna
82. Jochebed
83. Judith
84. Julia

K
85. Keren-happuch
86. Keturah
87. Kezia

L
88. Lapidoth
89. Leah
90. Lois
91. Lo-ruhamah
92. Lydia

M
93. Maachah
94. Magdalene
95. Mahalath
96. Mahlah
97. Mara
98. Martha
99. Mary
100. Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ
101. Mehetabel
102. Merab
103. Meshullemeth
104. Michaiah
105. Michal
106. Milcah
107. Miriam

N
108. Naamah
109. Naarah
110. Nagge
111. Naomi
112. Nehushta
113. Noadiah
114. Noah (female)
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<td>Succoth-benoth</td>
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<td>Susanna</td>
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<td>149</td>
<td>Syntyche</td>
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T
150. Tabitha
151. Tahpenes
152. Tamar
153. Taphath
154. Timna
155. Tirza
156. Tirzah
157. Tryphena
158. Tryphosa

U
159. Vashti

V

W

X

Y

160. Zebudah
161. Zeresh
162. Zeruah
163. Zeruiah
164. Zibiah
165. Zillah
166. Zilpah
167. Zipporah
Other Biblical References to Women

1. Daughter(s)
2. Deaconess
3. Elect lady (Unknown)
4. Ethiopian woman
5. Female(s)
6. Handmaid
7. Harlot
8. Heifer
9. Jewess
10. Midwife
11. Noah's wife
12. Pharaoh's daughters
13. Prophetess
14. Queen
15. Queen of Heaven
16. Shulamite woman
17. Syrophenician woman
18. Spouse
19. Widows
20. Wife
21. Witch
22. Woman