Next Level Church Staff – (Spring 2023)
Talking Point Resource for our Position on Women in Leadership and Ministry:

1. This is a Biblical Interpretation Issue, Not a Biblical Authority Issue.
   - People have debated this issue for years; and there are great churches on both sides.

2. Although this is not an "Eternity Issue," it is a "Unity Issue" for us here at Next Level Church.

3. Next Level Church Leadership spent close to 2 years researching, praying, studying & discerning the interpretation we hold to.

4. Doctrine cannot be formed by 1 or 2 verses alone, it must include the Whole of Scripture & ask, "What does God intend based on the entirety of Scripture?"

5. We believe, from the book of Genesis on, God created male & female with total equality of value and worth and equal access to all the Spiritual Gifts and access to the 5 fold ministry gifts Jesus gave to the church.
   - Nowhere in Scripture does it state or even infer that these gifts were for men only.

6. God called & anointed women as prophets & leaders in the Old & New Testaments.

   1. Deborah was a leader & a prophet. - Judges 4:4
   2. Miriam. (with Moses) Micah 6:4
   3. Isaiah's wife was a prophet. – Isaiah 8:3
   4. Anna – Luke 2:36-38 - Prophesied over Jesus when he was 8 days old.
   5. Priscilla. – Acts 18:2-3
   6. Phoebe. – Romans 16:1-2
   7. Lydia – Acts 16 - Opened the door to the Gospel going into all of Europe, & ultimately America.

   And many more…

7. The 2 "Problem Texts" are: I Corinthians 14:34-35 & I Timothy 2:8-15.
   - We believe Paul was speaking in both instances to Specific Circumstances, not declaring Absolute Truth. (ex: equal to the 10 commandments) (Situational Instruction vs. Absolute Truth)
   - If you conclude these passages as Absolute Truth, then they directly contradict, both Paul's writings (I Corinthians 11:5 & others) and the whole of Scripture on God's empowerment of women.

8. At Next Level Church, no one will ever be limited in their Calling & Giftedness because of their gender or race!

9. There is too much at stake in the Great Commission and we believe that 100% of the workforce is needed to fulfill the mission Jesus created us, the local church, to do.

10. Further Resources:
   - "Why Not Women" book - by Loren Cunningham
   - Pastor Matt's message: www.NextLevelChurch.com/women