

COURSE SYLLABUS

Women and Church Leadership

Course Lecturer: Alice Mathews, PhD
Distinguished Professor Emerita of Educational and Women's Ministries at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Course Description

In *Women and Church Leadership*, you will work with biblical, theological, historical and contemporary issues and models for the ministries of women. In particular, you will examine these issues in the light of the best recent scholarship and in the light of current denominational debates on the question of women's ordination to pastoral ministry or other types of leadership in the church.

The subject of this course is one that is critical in the church today. Our Daily Bread University encourages you to approach the subject with an open mind and heart as you review all perspectives on the issue. The goal of the course is to help you develop a point of view that is theologically sound and that fits with your personal convictions.

(If you are interested in a somewhat different perspective on women in leadership roles within the church, Our Daily Bread University also offers *Ministering to Women in the Church* by Lucy Mabery-Foster, PhD)

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to do the following:

- Articulate the relevant issues on all sides of the question of women and church leadership.
- State your own biblical and theological understanding and the position you have come to as a result of having taken this course.

Course Lecturer



Alice Mathews, PhD

Education:

- Iliff School of Theology/University of Denver, PhD
- Michigan State University, MA
- Bob Jones University, BA

Teaching Career:

- Academic Dean, Christian University GlobalNet
- Lois W. Bennett Distinguished Professor Emerita of Educational and Women's Ministries, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
- Academic Dean, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Other Career Highlights:

- Co-host, *Discover the Word* radio program with Mart DeHaan and Haddon Robinson
- Frequent teacher and conference speaker throughout North America and other parts of the world
- Involved since 1970 in women's ministries both in North America and overseas, including 17 years spent serving in churches in France and Austria

Publications:

- Author of several books of Bible studies for women, as well as a homiletics textbook, *Preaching That Speaks to Women*, and a marriage textbook, *Marriage Made in Eden*, co-authored with M. Gay Hubbard
- Contributed chapters to eight other edited volumes

Course Methods

Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage the students in learning and processing information, interacting with other students (when possible), and applying the learning to their lives. These methods include the following:

- **Video-based teaching**

The primary teaching session in each lesson is provided in video format. If you do not have the bandwidth required to view the video, we provide the option of listening to the lesson or reading the lesson from a transcript.

- **Additional Resources**

Lessons may be accompanied by additional readings, activities, etc. that students may use to supplement their learning.

Course Assessment and Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Viewing the following for each lesson:

- **Lesson Objectives:** Objectives describe the learning outcomes you should achieve by the end of the lesson.
- **Lectures:** 30-40 minute lessons that can be viewed as many times as needed.

2. Completing a final self-assessment form in which you will reflect on the content in the course and evaluate your life in light of what you have learned. The specifics of this assessment are provided in the course materials.

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded to any student. No numeric or letter grade will be awarded for this course.