

Ten Functions Women Perform in the New Testament

1. Female Deacons

New Testament

- Phoebe in Romans 16:1-2
- "Women" in 1 Timothy 3:11
- Apphia in Philemon 2 (?)

Non-Christian Evidence

- Pliny, *Epistle* 10.96.8 (ca. A.D. 112)

2. Female Patrons

- Women in Luke 8:1-3 (cf. Mark 15:41)
- Phoebe in Romans 16:1-2
- “Not a few prominent women” of Thessalonica in Acts 17:4 (Likely)
- “A number of prominent Greek women” of Berea in Acts 17:12 (Likely)
- Chloe in 1 Corinthians 1:11 (?)
- Some of the five Female Hosts of House Churches (see below) (?)

3. Female Apostles

- Junia in Romans 16:7
There is the generic sense of “missionary, delegate, or messenger.” See Barnabas (Acts 14:4, 14); Titus (2 Cor 8:23); Epaphroditus (Phil 2:25); cf. James (Gal 1:19).
- The Seventy in Luke 10:1 (?)
- The Women in Matthew 28:1-8 (?)

4. Ministry Teams

Husband/Wife Teams

- Priscilla and Aquila
- Andronicus and Junia in Romans 16:7

Female/Female Pair

- Tryphena and Tryphosa in Romans 16:12: they are “workers in the Lord.”

Six Other Pairs

- The Seventy in Luke 10:1 (?)
- Cleopas and his unnamed companion in Luke 24:13-35 (?)
- Apostles and their wives in 1 Corinthians 9:5 (?)
- “Brothers of the Lord” and their wives in 1 Corinthians 9:5 (?)
- Philologus and Julia in Romans 16:15 (?)
- Nereus and his sister in Romans 16:15 (?)

5. Female Hosts of House Churches

- Mary in Acts 12:12 (Jerusalem)
- Lydia in Acts 16:15, 40 (Philippi)
- Prisca (and Aquila) in Romans 16:3-5 (Rome); in 1 Corinthians 16:8, 19 (Ephesus)
- Nympha in Colossians 4:15 (Likely)
- Phoebe in Romans 16:1-2 (?) (Cenchrea)

6. Female Coworkers

- Prisca in Romans 16:3-5
- Euodia and Syntyche in Philippians 4:2-3. See the use of the phrase “in the gospel” in Rom 1:9 and 1 Thess 3:2.

7. Female Laborers

- Mary in Romans 16:6
- Tryphena in Romans 16:12
- What does "labor" (*kopian, kopos*) mean?
 1. Work (in general): 1 Cor 4:12; 2 Thess 3:8
 2. Work of ministry: 1 Cor 3:8; 2 Cor 10:14-15; Gal 4:11; Phil 2:16; 1 Thess 3:5; 5:12; 1 Tim 5:17
- Implications of 1 Corinthians 16:16
 - This passage uses the word “submit to, be subject to” (*hupotassesthai*) to describe a function women perform.
- Tryphosa in Romans 16:12
- Persis in Romans 16:12

8. Female Prophets

Old Testament

- Miriam in Exodus 15:20 (see 4:13-16; 7:1-2; cf. Micah 6:4)
- Deborah in Judges 4:4
- Huldah in 2 Kings 22:14 (= 2 Chronicles 34:22)
- Isaiah's wife in Isaiah 8:3
- Ezekiel 13:17-23 (false prophetesses)
- Note Noadiah in Nehemiah 6:14 (false prophetess).

New Testament

- Anna in Luke 2:36
- Women in Acts 2:17-18/Joel 2:28-29
- Philip's four daughters in Acts 21:9
- Women who "pray and prophesy" in 1 Cor 11:5
- Elizabeth in Luke 1:41-45 (?)
- Women in 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 (?)
- Note "Jezebel" in Revelation 2:20-25 (false prophet).

What does a prophet do?

- Evidence from Acts 15:30-32; 1 Corinthians 14:1-4, 19, 29-32
- Predictive element: Agabus (Acts 11:27-28; 21:10-11)

Early Church History: Ammia in Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History* 5.17.1-4; 3.37.1

9. Female Prayer

Old Testament

- Hannah in 1 Samuel 1:9-20; 2:1-10

The Apocrypha and First-Century Jewish Authors

- Sarah in Tobit 3:11-15
- Tobias and Sarah in Tobit 8:4-8
- Judith in Judith 9:2-14; 13:4b-5; 7b
- 2 Maccabees 3:18-22
- Philo, *On the Posterity of Cain* 179; Josephus, *Jewish War* 1.584

New Testament

- Anna in Luke 2:37b
- “The women and Mary the mother of Jesus” in Acts 1:12-14
- Lydia and some women in Acts 16:13-15
- Wives from the church at Tyre in Acts 21:5
- Husbands and wives in 1 Corinthians 7:5
- Women in 1 Corinthians 11:5, 13
- “Real widow” in 1 Timothy 5:5
- Mary in Luke 1:46-55 (?)
- Woman who glorifies God in Luke 13:13 (?)

10. Female Teachers

- Priscilla in Acts 18:26
- Prophets in 1 Cor 14:19 (“instruct”), 31 (“learn”)
- Teaching through singing in Colossians 3:16
- “Teachers” in James 3:1 (?)
- “Teaching” in 1 Cor 14:26 (?)
- “Teach others” in 2 Tim 2:2 (?)
- Lois and Eunice in 2 Tim 1:5 (?)
- Anna in Luke 2:38 (?)
- Samaritan woman in John 4:29-30, 39, 42 (?)
- Euodia and Syntyche in Philippians 4:2-3 (?)