

Subordination of women to men in the LDS Church

In many ways, women in the LDS Church are subordinate to men. A few formal and informal examples follow.

In the Temple

Women are subordinate to men in the temple in the following ways:

1. Adam helps make the earth; Eve does not.
2. Adam is made directly by Christ; Eve is made through a piece of Adam.
3. Adam is named directly by God; Eve is named by Adam.
4. Eve is given to Adam; Adam is not given to Eve.
5. Adam is given the Garden of Eden by name; Eve is not.
6. Adam covenants directly to obey God; Eve covenants to obey her husband.
7. Adam is ordained to be a King and Priest to God; Eve is ordained to be a Queen and Priestess to her husband.
8. In the prayer circle when God's presence is called into the room, Eve must veil her face. Men are granted direct communion with God, while the woman is granted access via her grip to the man next to her.
9. When they are kicked out of the Garden, Adam builds an altar and prays to God, while Eve does not.
10. Men know their wife's name, while women do not know their husband's name—women need men, but men do not need a woman to bring them through the veil in anticipation of their sealing.
11. When women die, their faces are veiled, symbolizing their inability to have direct access to God's presence. Instead, their husbands must bring them into God's presence by knowing their secret new name.
12. In the sealing, [only women give themselves to their husband](#) (men and women both receive one another).

[With correction and some modification, from [here](#)]

Submission to a really righteous husband in everything

A woman would have no fears of being imposed upon, nor of any dictatorial measures, nor of improper demands if the husband were self-sacrificing and worthy. **Certainly no sane woman would hesitate to give submission to her own really righteous husband in everything.** (emphasis added)

Doctrines of the Gospel Student Manual, [ch. 29 The Importance of the Family](#) [quoting Spencer W. Kimball, in Stockholm Sweden Area Conference Report 1974, 46–47]

Don't talk too much

Elder Ballard [recently taught](#) in the Europe Area Sisters' Meeting:

Let your voices be heard. We cannot meet our destiny as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in preparing this world for the Second Coming of the Savior of the world without the support and the faith and the strength of the women of this church. We need you; we need your voices. They need to be heard. They need to be heard in your community, in your neighborhoods. They need to be heard in your Ward Council or the Branch Council. **But don't talk too much in those council meetings**—just straighten the Brethren out quickly and move the work on! We're building the Kingdom of God! We're preparing the world for the Second Coming of the Savior and the Redeemer of the World. (emphasis added)

This was originally posted on lds.org at this address: "<https://www.lds.org/broadcasts/watch/europe-area-sisters-meeting/2014/09?lang=eng>" but it was subsequently pulled.

Storm relief

Women were [excluded from at least some hurricane Harvey cleanup efforts](#), even though males as young as 16 were included.

God does not reveal any great principle through women

Joseph F. Smith [taught in the Oneida Stake Conference, January 20th 1895](#):

Our Heavenly Father has never yet to my knowledge revealed to this Church any great principle through a woman. Now, sisters, do not cast me off nor deny the faith, because I tell you that god has never revealed any great and essential truth for the guidance of the Latter-day Saints through any woman. "Oh! but," says one, "what about Eliza Snow's beautiful hymn, 'O my Father, Thou that dwellest,' etc? Did not the Lord reveal through her that great and glorious principle that we have a mother as well as a father in heaven? No. God revealed that principle to Joseph Smith; Joseph Smith revealed it to Eliza Snow Smith, his wife; and Eliza Snow was inspired, being a poet, to put it into verse. If we give anybody on earth credit for that, we give it to the Prophet Joseph Smith. But first of all we give it to God, who revealed it to His servant the Prophet. **God reveals Himself and His truths through the channels of the Priesthood.**

Measuring equality

Measurements of equality confirm that women are considered subordinates in the LDS Church. Kate Kelly [articulated](#) the difference between feelings of equality and measurements of equality:

I have heard from many women, ‘I see nothing wrong with the status quo. I feel equal.’ To them I say: ‘You can feel respected, supported and validated in the church, but equality can be measured. Equality is not a feeling. In our church men and women are not equal.’

See [the Equality Archive](#) at Doves & Serpents for many specific examples.