

Women from all over the world have made significant contributions. Their names are usually not known and they are certainly not celebrated worldwide, but it only takes one great woman to make a difference. Short and precious was the time that Moses' mother had to raise the child that she had given up to save his life (Exodus 2). This she did willingly because she felt that preserving his life was of greater value than the

ua as much as Joshua needed Moses. In effect, they were co-servants, one was the leader and the other second in command. By each one carrying out his role to the fullest, success and victory were inevitable.

In the home, the woman takes the role of second in command. God carefully created her to be physically softer, intellectually perceptive, intuitive, and able to multi-task. Often,

However, wisdom builds and fortifies while the Church nurtures and nourishes. These words sound quite similar to what comes naturally to most women. The apostle Paul described the Lord's love, care, and sacrifice for the church allegorically as a husband for his wife (Ephesians 5). The church, in turn, as the bride, should reverently respect and submit to her husband, i.e. to God. This submission is out of love and not

different than the deacons. In the Old Testament, Deborah the Judge held a powerful position, but carefully advised Barak, only to a point. Then, she reminded him of the limits of her role (Judges 4). St. Mary, the Blessed Mother, was placed in the care of Christ's closest male servant, to care for her needs and well-being (John 19). Additionally, she was to care for him.



pain and sorrow she would have to face without him.

God purposely created woman to be a helper and a companion to man—to make her comparable to yet different from man (Genesis 2). A companion is often one who possesses complementary gifts relative to his/her partner. The mighty prophet Joshua is an exemplary figure of one who was second in command. His loyalty, dedication, endurance, respect, faith, worship, intelligence, and decency were not perceived as weaknesses but instead as strength above strength. Moses needed Josh-

ua we mistakenly assume that different roles mean different degrees of value. However, that all depends on your viewpoint. Women are not inferior to men, but have different and complex needs and ambitions. Maternal instincts are present in nearly all female species. Most women yearn to have children and are often conflicted when they have to sacrifice their career to enjoy a family.

Interestingly, the feminine pronoun “she” is used to refer to wisdom and to the Church. What these have to do with women initially appears to be nothing more than linguistics.

out of fear or bondage. In all interactions, the Holy Scripture instructs all the faithful to be in submission to one another.

The Coptic Orthodox Church has painstakingly followed the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ for over two thousand years. When the Lord established the priesthood, it was strictly on the grounds of male ordination. Many women were referred to as disciples, deaconesses, or prophetesses. However, it was never mentioned that any woman was to be in the priesthood. Even the deaconesses had responsibilities

Let us all make the most of one another and not desire to have what is not ours to take. Let us women follow in this pattern and appreciate all the gifts which God gave us. May we use these gifts wisely to glorify His Holy Name.