



When I tell someone that I belong to a Missouri Synod congregation, sometimes I get a response like this, "Oh, you're the people who discriminate against women, not allowing them to be pastors." How do I answer that?

I'm guessing the person who asked this question isn't the only one whose had to deal with that kind of response when someone finds out that you belong to an LC-MS congregation.

I would answer that our practice of reserving the pastoral office for men has absolutely nothing to do with discrimination. Rather it is a good example of how we view the Bible. We view the Bible as God's unchanging rule or guide for our lives (individually and in congregations). And in the Bible God has made it clear that He has given the leadership role (both in families and congregations) to those of the male gender. Not unlike the fact that He's given the mothering and nurturing role to the female gender. God has not made some kind of "women are better" statement in choosing women to be moms. Neither has He (nor the LC-MS) made some kind of "men are better" statement in reserving the office of the public ministry for males. It's simply a matter of roles as God has defined them.

We aim to be true to God's direction for us, so we have limited the office of the public ministry to men. It's not that we (or God) view men as better than women. Not at all. It's simply an effort on our part to follow God's direction as revealed in His Word.

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to <mailto:pastor@livingwordlutheran.net>