



Dear brethren in Christ Jesus,

Greetings in the name of the Lord! I serve as a member of the board of directors for a significant and growing ministry known as Iron Rose Sister Ministries. The objective of this ministry is to encourage and equip women in the church to better serve God in their family, community, and church. I am writing to clarify a very important value and practice held by all who have a part in this ministry. Please let me explain.

I have the privilege of serving as an elder of an English-speaking congregation in Searcy, Arkansas. I also teach and preach at a Spanish-speaking congregation and have been blessed to have a part in planting and strengthening congregations of the Lord's church in Guatemala, Argentina, and Chile. I have traveled and spoken in many congregations throughout Latin America. As I have participated in the Lord's work, I have come to understand and appreciate why the apostles appointed elders in every congregation. In the first century, the apostles' doctrine was accepted as inspired by all the churches, but every church faced her own issues and concerns. It is for this reason that Paul did not write the same letter to the Romans, Corinthians, Thessalonians, Philippians, and Ephesians. All churches have access to God's Word, but we all live in unique contexts and face challenges that can be very different from those faced by other Christians.

It is for this reason that events conducted by Iron Rose Sister Ministries are conducted whenever possible in local churches and the norms, practices, and decisions of the local church leaders are fully respected. It is understood that ministry representatives should not use a given opportunity to share God's Word to promote personal agendas or express private opinions that could disrupt the church or undermine the leadership of those who shepherd the flock in that location. All who present lessons are prayerfully and humbly seeking to be true to God's Word as they teach and equip others. They are also open to correction when approached with the Word of God and a loving attitude. Please feel free to discuss with them any concerns you may have. I am sure they will be willing to share with you their plan of instruction. I want you to be assured that the desire of this ministry is to be a blessing to the women of your congregation, trusting that the Lord can multiply that blessing to all.

My prayer is that you will accept the help that Iron Rose Sister Ministries is offering so that God can use these capable instruments to bless your congregation.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

Bill Richardson