

**Essay from the bold pastor**  
**#215 - Trudeau's Ministry -**

I was surprised to see a photo of the new Canadian ministry, headed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The ministry is made up of 50% women, and it also includes an indigenous Canadian, a person in a wheel chair, a Sikh wearing a turban, and various immigrants.

30-year-old Maryam Monsef is the Minister of Democratic Institutions. She was born in Afghanistan, and after losing her father in a war near the Iranian border, she travelled to various places within Afghan and Iran alongside her mother and sisters. At age 11, she settled in Canada as a refugee. Given her background, her words hold much weight when she says that to live in a democratic country is a blessing. The Minister of Infrastructure and Communities is Amarjeet Sohi, originally from India. While in his twenties, he was mistaken as a terrorist for simply being a Sikh. He was imprisoned for two years and tortured.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has been newly renamed the Department of Global Affairs. The name is telling of the fact that they are more about being a member of the global community, rather than simply differentiating the departments within the ministry. They have already declared plans to admit 25,000 refugees from Syria, and Trudeau himself has visited the airport to personally welcome some of them. The other positions in the ministry are very diverse, including those such as Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities, Minister of Status of Women, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, and Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs.

The one interesting characteristic of the Bible is that there are many women who play an important role. Their impact is especially evident in the New Testament, as Jesus himself may have taken on some female disciples as can be inferred from **Luke Chapter 8**. This would have been unimaginable in previous times where men overwhelmingly played central roles. Furthermore, **Romans 16:1** reads:

**“I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae.”**

The Bible is a book central to answering the question “What does it take to be saved?” And in the Book of Romans, one of the most influential books of the Bible and a letter written to the people of Rome, it states that the person who delivered an important letter from Corinth to Rome was a woman. All this during a time when there was no postal service, and there were many dangers on the road. She was also one of the elders of the very first Christian church.

In the same chapter (Romans 16), there are many mentions of people whom Paul relied on. They consist of people from a variety of races, classes, ages, and background. The one thing they have in common is that they all worked hard alongside Paul. The church is not a mere building for the Christian religion. It is a place where people who share the same faith but maybe of various backgrounds come. All are welcomed without discrimination. With Christ at the center, everybody is given an opportunity to play a vital role.

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