

### ***Allies in Ministry***

*How Men Can Support Women in God's Mission*

April 21, 2026 | \$20.99, 176 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-1258-1

## The Path of Allyship and Men Supporting Women in Ministry

### **How is this new book, *Allies in Ministry*, a follow-up to your first book, *Together in Ministry*?**

**Rob Dixon:** First of all, it's topically similar. In the big picture, my interest is helping the Church embrace God's creation intent for the full and equal partnership of women and men in ministry. In *Together in Ministry*, I articulated a model for how flourishing partnerships are constructed. In *Allies in Ministry*, I'm laying out a pathway the Church can use to develop more men into more effective allies to women in their ministry contexts. I see these two books as cousins to one another.

Beyond that, both books are true to my internal drive to break down complex issues into understandable parts or processes. I've always been interested in this kind of work; I love the challenge of helping people and organizations get from point A to point B as clearly and efficiently as possible. I see both books as practical, how-to manuals for the church to use on its way toward creating personally satisfying and missionally effective ministry partnerships between women and men.

### **What drove you to write *Allies in Ministry*?**

**Rob:** Several years ago I was presenting on the content from *Together in Ministry* to a roomful of leaders, and I was struck by the experience of one particular male leader. At the beginning of the seminar, he was very engaged—asking questions, participating in small group discussions, good eye contact, laughing at the right times, etc. Over the course of the day, as we talked about things like men sharing power with women, men doing their inner work, and men mitigating subtle but potent dynamics that tend to marginalize women in our communities and organizations, he began to shut down.

At the end of the seminar, I joined his processing group in order to hear about his experience, and he said something that provoked my study on male allyship. He said, "if the goal is to become a church where men and women share power in this way, I don't know where my place is as a man." Starting that day and continuing through this entire process of writing *Allies in Ministry*, I've been pursuing a generative and compelling vision that I can offer a male leader like that. I think male allyship is one way forward.

### **Who did you have in mind as you wrote this book?**

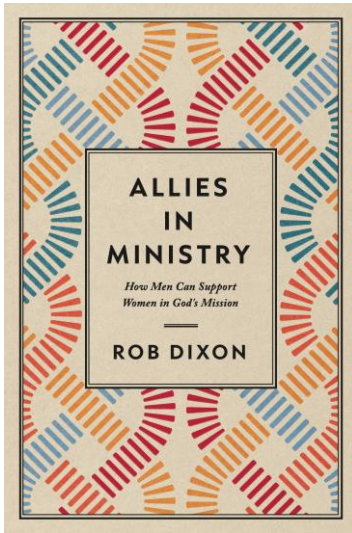
**Rob:** I've had several different groups in mind. First, I've been thinking about male leaders who want to be an asset to the gifted/called women in their lives but don't know how to do that. *Allies in Ministry* can function as a guidebook for a man in this situation. Next, I've been thinking about church leaders, both male and female, who are interested in creating a culture where women and men can thrive in partnership. As noted above, I see male allyship as a critical way to mobilize men in the work of gender equality. And then a third group would be women who encounter potential male allies in their ministry contexts who could use some developmental assistance.



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**Can you provide a biblical example of what allyship looks like?**

**Rob:** I sure can! Throughout, the Bible paints a vivid picture of male allyship, and *Allies in Ministry* is full of stories featuring men such as Peter, Paul, and Jesus. But I always like to point to the example of Boaz as a male ally. Ruth is the hero of her own story, but Boaz plays an important part in moving the narrative in the right direction. Not only does he take steps to protect Ruth, thus ensuring she has what she and Naomi need in order to survive, he eventually takes on the ultimate form of a male ally when he fulfills the Old Testament's kinsman-redeemer statute. In part because of Boaz's actions as a male ally, God's purposes are fulfilled in the story of Ruth.

**Can you provide a practical example of what allyship looks like?**

**Rob:** For me, "allyship" serves as an umbrella term that encompasses a collection of practical actions. In her excellent book, *Better Allies*, Karen Catlin identifies seven different forms of allyship. She calls them allyship roles. *Allies in Ministry* has a whole chapter on these roles, but the list includes scholars, confidants, amplifiers, sponsors, champions, upstanders, and advocates. Habitual allies, men who have traversed the full allyship pathway, will have developed a basic competency with each of these roles, and they know which roles to use in a given situation.

**What is the first step to becoming an ally?**

**Rob:** In *Allies in Ministry*, I lay out a seven-step male allyship pathway, and the first step is understanding a man's starting position. Knowing where a potential male ally is starting from is important, because a man's starting position may well dictate whether or how a man progresses on the rest of the pathway. That said, I know men who have entered further down the pathway, and for them the first step might be different. I encourage men to read the first chapter carefully because it provides an overview of the entire allyship pathway. That way, they can locate themselves and determine next steps accordingly.

**How have you personally discovered the importance of allyship?**

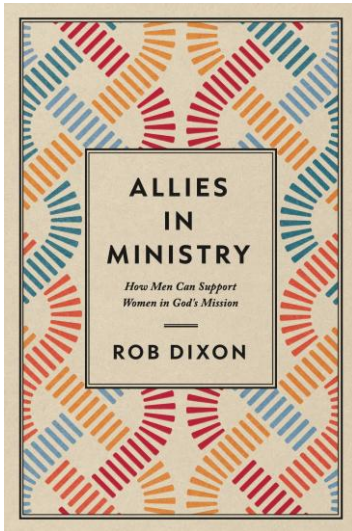
**Rob:** I love being an ally. It's very satisfying for me to see women thrive when I've successfully and appropriately utilized one of the allyship roles referenced above, and I have witnessed an increased missional impact as the women around me use their gifts in ministry. Beyond that, walking the allyship pathway has created a context for me to grow personally. As I mention in the book, allies tend to serve from the margins, as opposed to operating in the center of everything. And that has been an important discipleship experience for me, teaching me values such as humility, empathy, and service.

**What makes this book distinct as it relates to men supporting women in the Church?**

**Rob:** In the secular arena, there is a growing body of literature about allyship in general, but there is almost no discussion of allyship, and male allyship in particular, in the context of Christian ministry. With *Allies in Ministry*, I'm intending to articulate a concrete and sequenced process for developing more men into more effective allies to women in ministry.



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In addition, I hope that *Allies in Ministry* offers a compelling picture of allyship as an identity that men can embrace as the church becomes a place that empowers women more fully. If more men began to see themselves as allies, I'm convinced that it would be beneficial for them, for the women they partner with in ministry, and for the mission of the church more broadly.

**What are three messages you hope readers take from *Allies in Ministry*?**

**Rob:** First, I trust it's clear from the book that male allyship has a solid biblical foundation. The idea of allyship is fairly widespread today in the social arena, but it's been around for a long time. As I note above, we can count Boaz as a legitimate male ally, and some scholars date the Book of Ruth all the way back to the tenth century BCE!

Second, I hope male readers are motivated to become allies to the women that God has placed in their lives and ministries, and that women who read *Allies in Ministry* are inspired to share the book with the men around them. Imagine what God could do in and through the church as more men adopt an allyship identity!

And then the third thing I hope readers take away is the knowledge that allyship is a skill that can be developed. No man will be a habitual ally out of the box; instead, it takes time, focus, and intentional investment to develop into an effective male ally.

**What advice do you have for women and men who decide to read *Allies in Ministry*?**

**Rob:** First and foremost, thanks for reading! This book will only fulfill its purpose of helping the church develop more men into more effective allies to women in ministry if people choose to read it and then implement its message. I'm grateful you've put *Allies in Ministry* on your reading list!

That said, I have two particular encouragements for would-be readers. First, if at all possible, read the book in community. I'm confident that your journey through the allyship pathway will be richer if you travel alongside others. I would love to see *Allies in Ministry* book groups sprouting up anywhere where women and men are partnering together in ministry. Second, read the book deliberately, even devotionally. The male allyship pathway invites introspection, and so it would be terrific to read *Allies in Ministry* with your journal nearby. To help readers digest the book this way, I've included processing questions at the end of each chapter.




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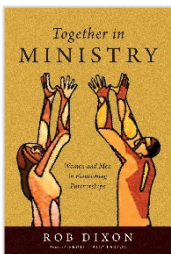
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## New from the Author of *Together in Ministry*

**Rob Dixon** (DIS, Fuller Theological Seminary) is the author of *Together in Ministry: Women and Men in Flourishing Partnerships* and the coauthor with his wife Amy of the picture book *Penny Preaches*. In addition to serving on InterVarsity Christian Fellowship staff for almost thirty years, he teaches at Fuller Theological Seminary and Fresno Pacific University.

Also by Rob Dixon:



**Together in Ministry: Women and Men in Flourishing Partnerships**  
 by Rob Dixon | September 28, 2021 | \$23.99, 176 pages, paperback | IVP Academic | 978-1-5140-0070-0

Is it possible for churches and organizations to foster healthy mixed-gender ministry collaboration? Longtime ministry leader Rob Dixon casts a compelling—and encouraging—vision for flourishing partnerships between women and men. With research findings, biblical examples, real-life stories, and practical next steps, this roadmap equips teams and individuals with next steps for making that vision a reality.



**Penny Preaches: God Gives Good Gifts to Everyone!**  
 by Amy Dixon and Rob Dixon | August 13, 2024 | \$18.99, 32 pages, hardcover | IVP Kids | 978-1-5140-0858-4

Penny loves the sermon on Sunday because she loves to think about big things. But when preaching from the front porch to her friends doesn't turn out quite as she expected, Penny wonders if she was wrong to want to teach others about God. Written by Amy and Rob Dixon, Penny's story reminds us that God gives good gifts to everyone!



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