

COMPREHENDING YOUR MATES DIFFERENTNESS

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It is important that we become aware of the differences between the male and female, and between each individual. There are many misconceptions which arise regarding male/female differences. This we will examine closely. We will also consider Biblical instructions on how husbands and wives are to respond to male/female differences in a marriage.

Men and women are more than noticeable difference. Understanding and responding to these deeper differences is important to building a good marriage.

THE DIFFERENCES

1. Creative Differences

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Gen 1:27 NIV)

It was a wonderful thing God did when he divided man into male and female. He called his two creations “very good” (Genesis 1:31)

1. The male was designed and built by God to be stronger than the female, which is why he has more muscles than the female.
2. The male was made stronger so that he can work and provide for his family and also protect his family from attacks and danger.
3. The female body was designed to be attractive to and be desired by the male (husband). The man is to chase and long after her.
 - This is why a woman’s looks and figure attracts and sometimes create lust in men.
 - This is also the reason why women seem to be more interested in how they appear in public especially to the one they love. They are simply fashion crazy.
4. The female was designed to carry and deliver the babies that will come through sexual union of both sexes.
 - WOMAN sounds like the MAN with the WOMB.
 - This creates body changes in looks, size, weight and strength when pregnancy occurs.

The differences separating man as male and woman as female were intended to usher in many special blessings.

“God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’” (Gen 1:28 NIV)

Unfortunately, with the fall of man, the blessings of the sexes became a battle between the sexes. The unique qualities with which God endowed each gender now gave rise to misunderstanding and contention rather than completion and power.

To recapture what has been lost, we must first develop an understanding of, and then an appreciation for God’s design of mankind as male and female. We are married to someone **who**

is both like us and yet unlike us. You have to come to terms with this reality; otherwise, peace will elude you.

2. Practical Differences

Here are general observations that have been made regarding male and female differences:

- a. Women have a greater need of belonging (they love to be loved and cherish relationship more than any other thing); while men have a greater need of achieving.
- b. Women are more sensitive than men. The expressing of feelings is more important to them. This explains the reason why they talk a lot, comment on every issue, and express their feelings on practically everything.
- c. Men tend to see their work as the extension of themselves; while women are apt to see their husbands and family that way.
- d. Men are more goal-oriented; while women are need oriented. Men want to achieve and conquer; while women are more interested in buying clothes, beautifying themselves, the children and the house.
- e. Men are more focused in their thinking – they are rational and logical in their thinking; women are more intuitive in their thinking probably because of their sensitive nature. They seem to see what the men don't see sometimes, read meanings to almost everything because of this. **Both need to listen to each other to have a balance.**
- f. Women tend to require more frequent assurance. They seem to have this feeling of insecurity. This explains why your wife always wants to hear you tell her how much you love her. Never get tired of telling her that you love and want to be with her all the days of your life. And you must not give your wife any reason to suspect you are having an affair outside. Words alone will not do. Express it in your action.
- g. Men are more physical; while women are more relational especially when making love. A man wants to go in there and come out; while the woman wants to play, be aroused so she can have full satisfaction.

3. A Call to Understanding

- a. God never intended for male and female differences to divide husbands and wives or bring conflict between them. Quite the contrary, God's original intent was for us to appreciate and honour those unique qualities which our mates possess.

The scripture appeals to us to adopt this kind of perspective.

“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.” (1 Peter 3:7 KJV)

Understand your wife as a woman; grant her honour as a fellow-heir of Jesus Christ.

- b. *“Since she is a woman”.*
This means that a man needs understanding into her thoughts and feelings. This recognition goes all the way back to God's original creation when he created both male and female as unique from the other.

- c. The key word to living successfully with the opposite sex (whether it be man or woman) is the word UNDERSTANDING.

“According to knowledge” 1 Pet 3:7

- d. Essentially, the instruction is to love and relate with your mate according the insights in scripture. Build your marriage according to the word of God, and you will discover how rich your relationship will be.

e. If we live by our natural instincts, doing what we think is right for us, we are in for trouble. Our natural instincts assume our mate thinks and feels the same way we do. We tend to treat our mate as we want to be treated, which in significant ways can be of a great error. The ways that seem right to us often does not honour our mate as a unique special person. ‘One man’s meat is another person’s poison.’ What may appeal to you may not appeal to your partner, but in fact offend your partner greatly. And the frequent end result of this path is conflict and abuse.

- f. Honour your wife as an equal in the marriage, and treat her as a joint heir of the grace of life.

SUMMARY

God created unique and special differences in mankind when He created them male and female. Understanding and responding to these special differences lays a solid foundation upon which to build a strong marriage. Don’t overlook this.

Study your partner to know him or her in order to relate well in accordance with the laid down rules in the Bible. Remember, you will never understand life more than the author of life. You will never understand marriage more than the one who created it. Go to the word of God to find out what he has commanded that will help you live in peace and harmony and practice it regularly, dutifully and diligently.

WORD OF WISDOM

- 1. Marriage is not a game of luck, but a life that is lived.**
- 2. It takes commitment from both parties to make marriage work.**
- 3. Sincere people are loveable people.**
- 4. Trust is the foundation for durable and enduring marital relationship.**
- 5. Giving your ear to gossips is opening the door for the devil to destroy your relationship.**
- 6. Forgiveness and forbearance are the two great pillars of love. Without them, love cannot survive.**
- 7. To make the right choice in marriage, emotion must be put aside, and the facts considered.**
- 8. Marriage is responsibility meant for only responsible people.**

9. **Maturity is not just age, but the ability to manage the problem and responsibilities of life.**
10. **Peacemakers make good partners.**