

The Christian Woman - Understanding Men

Part One: Differences Between Women and Men by Ruth Shelburne

- I. God created man and woman and said they were good - Genesis 2
 - A. Adam more responsible than Eve
 - B. Adam received the command not to eat, before Eve was created
 - C. Headship among equals - eyes opened after Adam ate

- II. Some differences between men and women are genetic, some are cultural.
 - A. Men snore more, fight more, change their minds more often than women do, their blood is redder, their daylight vision is superior, they have thicker skins and longer vocal cords, their metabolic rate is higher, more men are left-handed, they feel pain less than women, age and wrinkle earlier, rich men are fatter than rich women, their immunity against disease is weaker, they talk about themselves less, they worry about themselves more, they are not as sensitive to others as women are.
 - B. Men typically do not put the toilet seat down, they leave clothes and tools strewn about, are passionately absorbed in sports, love computers and other 'technological' toys, find it harder to have intimate friendships, are less likely to express their emotions, think manhood equals sexual conquests, are more independent, do not touch as much, feel a need to dominate, define themselves by their work, fear sexual impotency, are hurt by sexual rejection, need less social contact.
 - C. Our culture creates conflicts for men. Men are raised to take charge, but they cannot all be their own bosses; to be primary providers but they find they are now living during inflation and recession; to focus on achievement but success is usually a momentary experience; to stand on their own but they need a support system; to express strong emotions but they sometimes have fear and sadness; to be team players but it is often 'every man for himself'; to be independent but urged to bond and nest; to follow their dreams but are required to be realistic about security.

- III. Men can have strong relationships
 - A. Greatest love ever shown - Jesus Christ
 - B. Other examples are the Apostle John, Apostle Paul, David and Jonathan

- IV. Men's sexual responses
 - A. Visual
 - B. Immediately
 - C. Considering man's sexual nature, if he is faithful to his wife it is because he has made a decision and is committed.

- V. Men's greatest fear is failure.
 - A. Sexually
 - B. Work

- VI. Men are more logical than women.
 - A. Respect their logic
 - B. They will be more able to understand our emotional perspective

- VI. God calls men to greatness
 - A. To overcome the 'natural' man-nature
 - B. To be great leaders

- VII. Some scriptures of warning to women
 - A. Proverbs 21:19
 - B. Proverbs 25:24
 - C. Proverbs 27:15, 16
 - D. Proverbs 14:1
 - E. Proverbs 18:22

- IX. Differences between men and women do matter, but we were created to live in harmony. No one human being can completely meet our love need. This need can only be met by the unconditional love of our God who is our Father, and from Him we learn to love each other more completely. We learn to be respectful, open, honest, confrontive, caring, and willing to grow and change.

Part Two: Bridging the Gap of Communication By Kristine Reeves
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- I. Examples of misunderstandings between husband and wife in the Bible.
 - A. Abram and Sarai - Genesis 16:1-6
 - B. Elkanah and Hannah - 1 Samuel 1:18
 - C. David and Michal - 2 Samuel 3:12-15; 6:16-23

- II. H. Norman Wright has some great information about communication between spouses:
- A. Both men and women have 3 main senses hearing, seeing, and feeling. The language a person uses lets you know which he prefers and what you need to use to communicate with him.
1. Auditorially oriented person depends upon spoken words for his communication.
 2. Visually oriented person---depends upon his eyes to perceive the world around him and uses visual images in remembering and thinking.
 3. Feeling oriented person--- tends to feel his way through his experiences.
- B. Clues to orientation:
1. Visual people use terms like:

I see what you're saying.
That looks good to me.
I'm not too clear on this right now.
This is still a bit hazy to me.
Boy, when they asked that question, I just went blank.
That sheds a new light on the problem.
Do you pick up my perspective?
 2. Auditory people use terms like:

That rings a bell with me.
It sounds real good to me.
I hear you.
I'm trying to tune into what you're saying.
Listen to this new idea.
I had to ask myself.
Now, that idea is clicking with me.
 3. Kinesthetic people use terms like:

I can't get a handle on this.
I've got a good feeling about this project.
Can you get in touch with what I'm saying.
It's easy to flow with what you're saying.
I don't grasp what you are trying to do.
This is a heavy situation.
- C. If you can identify your spouse then try to use questions and statements like these:
1. Visual:

It appears to youY..
You see it in this wayY..
Do you see it in that way???
How does it appear to you?Y..

2. Auditory:

Listening to you it seems as if Y..
I really hear you saying Y..
What would you like to express to her? Y..
I kind of hear you saying that Y..

3. Kinesthetic:

You are sort of feeling that Y..
You are communication a sense of Y..
I somehow sense that you feel Y..
Are you saying that this makes you feel Y..

III. Communication suggestions from the Family Life Marriage Conferences.

Proverbs 24:3 says, "By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established." The couple who seeks to understand each other will value what it takes for genuine communication to occur.

A. Genuine communication takes three things::

1. Time. Ecclesiastes 3:1, 7b - There is an appointed time for everything, and there is a time for every event under heaven...A time to be silent and a time to speak."
2. Trust. 1 John 4:18 - There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.
3. Transparency: sharing complete emotional and personal truthfulness. Genesis 2:25 - "And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Understanding increases with increased levels of communication. (See graph on board.)

B. Listening: Seeking to understand.

James 1:19b says but let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger. Many people want nothing more than someone to care enough to listen to them.

1. A poor listener will manifest habits that stifle communication and stir misunderstanding.

Pseudo listening fakes interest.
Selective listening tunes in only for points of interest.
Protective listening doesn't hear any threatening messages.
2. A good listener will manifest an attitude that encourages communication.

Listen with the attitude that your mate's comments are top priority.
Listen with an attitude of acceptance and willingness to understand.

Listen with an attitude that your mate is not your enemy.
Listen with an attitude of willingness to hear what God may be saying through your mate.
Listen with an attitude of wanting clarification. Ask questions and paraphrase in order to get to the meaning of the message.

3. A good listener manifests proper listening habits that enhance communication.

Focus on:

Rather than:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

4. Remember: Listening encourages understanding and builds oneness.

Proverbs 25:11 A word fitly spoken and in due season is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.

Proverbs 15:4, 23 A gentle tongue(with it's healing power) is a tree of life, but willful contrariness in it breaks down the spirit A man has joy in making an apt answer, and a word spoken at the right moment, how good it is.

Ephesians 4:15 rather, let our lives lovingly express truth in all things speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly."

Proverbs 18:13 He who answers a matter before he hears the facts, it is folly and shame to him.

James 1:19 Let every man be quick to hear, a ready listener, slow to speak, slow to take offense and to get angry.

Proverbs 16:32--- AHe who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his own spirit than he who takes a city.@

Proverbs 14:29 He who is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who is hasty of spirit exposes and exalts his folly.

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness and indignation and wrath.and resentmentYand quarrelingY.and slander be banished from you, with all malice.

Romans 14:13Then let us no more criticize and blame and pass judgment on one another, but rather decide and endeavor never to put a stumbling block or an obstacle or a hindrance in the way of a brother.

Proverbs 12:16--A fool's wrath is openly and quickly known; but a prudent man ignores an insult.

Proverbs 10:19 in a multitude of words transgression is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is prudent.

Proverbs 21:19 it is better to dwell in a desert land than with a contentious woman and vexation.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 therefore encourage one another and edifycstrengthen and build up one another just as you are doing.

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CAUSE I'M A MAN

Because I'm a man, when I lock my keys in the car I will fiddle with a wire clothes hanger and ignore your suggestions that we call a road service until long after hypothermia has set in -

Because I'm a man, when the car isn't running very well, I will pop the hood and stare at the engine as if I know what I'm looking at. If another man shows up, one of us will say to the other, "I used to be able to fix the settings, but now with all these computers and everything, I wouldn't know where to start." We will then drink beer - -----

Because I'm a man, when I catch a cold I need someone to bring me soup and take care of me while I lie in bed and moan. You never get as sick as I do, so for you this isn't an issue -

Because I'm a man, I can be relied upon to purchase basic groceries at the store, like milk or bread. I cannot be expected to find exotic items like "Cumin" or "Tofu." For all I know these are the same thing. And never, under any circumstances, expect me to pick up anything for which "feminine hygiene product" is a euphemism - -----

Because I'm a man, when one of our appliances stops working I will insist on taking it apart, despite evidence that this will just cost me twice as much once the repair person gets here and has to put it back together - -----

Because I'm a man, I must hold the television remote control in my hand while I watch TV. If the thing has been misplaced, I may miss a whole show looking for it (though one time I was able to survive by holding a calculator) - -----

Because I'm a man, I don't think we're all that lost, and no, I don't think we should stop and ask someone. Why would you listen to a complete stranger --- I mean, how could he know where we're going? -----

Because I'm a man, I do not want to visit your mother, or have your mother come visit us, or talk to her when she calls, or think about her any more than I have to. Whatever you got her for mothers day is okay, I don't need to see it. And don't forget to pick up something for my Mom also!! -----

Because I'm a man, you don't have to ask me if I liked the movie. Chances are, if you're crying at the end of it, I didn't - -----

Because I'm a man, I think what you're wearing is fine. I thought what you were wearing five minutes ago was fine, too. Either pair of shoes is fine. With the belt or without it looks fine. Your hair is fine. You look fine. Can we just go now?

Because I'm a man, and this is, after all, the year 2000, I will share equally in the housework. You just do the laundry, the cooking, the gardening, the cleaning, and the dishes. I'll do the rest.