

MICROWAVES AND CROCKPOTS

How and Why Men and Women Are Different

THESIS: Men and women are different by divine design. God intentionally made the male and the female with differing ways of perceiving and processing life so that each could be continually drawn out of self into the other, thus making love possible. After the Fall, the differences between the sexes that God intended for our blessing became aggravated. By the presence of selfishness in the relational equation, the psychological and emotional distinctions God intended to be points of complimentary connectivity became points of complex contention. The gospel reverses the effect the Fall had on marriage by turning us outward again, by recreating in us the capacity to love like God loves—without self-centeredness.

Complimentary Counterparts—Different By Design

Genesis 2:18-25—26Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness”... **27**So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28**Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.

Genesis 2:18-25—18The LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”... **21**And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. **22**Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. **23**And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. **24**Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. **25**And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Aggravated By The Fall—Clash of the Sexes

Genesis 3:8-12—8And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. **9**Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” **10**So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” **11**And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” **12**Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”

NOTE: If we were the same, one of us would be unnecessary.

NOTE: Selfishness leads to rivalry and domination.

Genesis 3:15-16—15And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel. **16**To the woman He said: . . . Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

Genesis 4:7—If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.

Proverbs 21:9, CEV—It’s better to stay outside on the roof of your house than to live inside with a nagging wife.

Marriage Restored In Christ

Ephesians 5:25-33—31Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. **32**And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 5:25-33—25Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, **26**that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, **27**that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. **28**So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. **29**For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. **30**For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. **31**“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” **32**This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. **33**Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Love, Love, Love

There are three kinds of love accounted for in the Greek language:

1. Eros—Sexual Love
2. Phileo—Friendship Love
3. Agape—Selfless Love

All three are vital to marriage, but number three—agape—is the ultimate realization of love and the most satisfying pleasure of all.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8, NIV—4Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. **5**It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **6**Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7**It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. **8**Love never fails.

NOTE: The long history of male dominance over the female is healed by the salvation that is in Christ.

“Behold Your God”—Isaiah 40:9

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All Scripture References are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.