

HIS & HERS



Learning from the Gender You're Not

Part 1: Learning Together as Humans

Part 2: Learning Together as Friends
Part 3: Learning Together as Family
Part 4: Learning Together as the Church
Part 5: Hot Seat Sunday

INTRODUCTION - Where Are We Going With This Series?

THE BASIC PREMISE OF THIS SERIES...

God has designed men and woman to reflect his image in mutually enriching ways and called us to learn from and celebrate our differences for the good of our families, our churches, and our society.

For the first time in human history we are raising and educating boys and girls in identical ways, teaching them that they are the same and that each is as capable as the other. Then, as adults, they get married and wake up one morning to find they are different from each other in every way, shape, and form.

~ Barbara and Allan Pease, *Why Men Don't Listen & Women Can't Read Maps*

THE BETTER WAY...

Celebrate our difference and prize our diversity.

1 Corinthians 12:14-27

SCIENCE & SCRIPTURE – We're Different By Design

- Not all bodies and brains match up. Approx 20% of men have feminized brains. Approx 10% of women have masculinized brains. Some of these people will be homosexual, but not all.
- Women's EYES have more variety of cones (not rods), which allows them to see more colours.
- Women have superior peripheral VISION than men.
- Women's SKIN is at least 10 Xs more sensitive than men. Touch is important.
- Women TASTE sweet better than men. Men taste salty better than women.
- Women detect SMELL better than men.
- Women detect EMOTIONS better through facial expression, body posture, and intonation.
- At one week, baby girls can distinguish their mother's voice or the cry of another baby from other sounds in the room. Baby boys can't.
- Speech is a female strength. Spatial awareness is a male strength.
- The *corpus callosum* (that part of the brain that connects the two sides of the brain) has 30% more connections in women.

Genesis 1:26-27; 2:18-25

TAKE OUT #1:

Scripture invites us to move TOWARD those who are different than us, believing that God desires diversity in unity. This has implications for our relationships in church, marriage, family, careers, and everywhere else. Men and women need to learn from the gender we're not in order to learn more about God's heart. (**1 Corinthians 12:14-27**)

TAKE OUT #2:

Don't punish the opposite sex for being, well, opposite.

TAKE OUT #3:

Don't use your gender-based differences as an excuse for laziness. (Remember that you are the way you are, not only because of **Genesis 1 & 2**, but also because of **Genesis 3**).

CONCLUSION – Travelling VS Tourism

A traveler visits another culture to become immersed in it. A tourist wants to believe they've experienced a different culture, but they do it through a filter, a buffer, so they never get too close to it. Travelers are there to learn. Tourists are there to take. Are you a traveler or a tourist?

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. What most surprised, encouraged, or challenged you from Sunday's sermon?
2. How have relationships with the gender you're not made a positive and/or negative impact on your life? Talk about some examples.
3. What are your thoughts about the following quotes:
 - a) It is arrogance in us to call frankness, fairness and chivalry 'masculine' when we see them in a woman; it is arrogance in them, to describe a man's sensitiveness or tact or tenderness as 'feminine.' But also what poor warped fragments of humanity most mere men and mere women must be to make the implications of that arrogance plausible. (C. S. Lewis)
 - b) Relationships between men and women work despite overwhelming sex differences. Much of the credit here goes to women, because they have the necessary skills to manage relationships and family. This factor alone would make the world a much safer place if every nation's leader was a woman. (Allan Pease)

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

4. Read our key texts again. a) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? b) What might be the significance of God speaking of himself in the plural in **1:26**? Does that have implications for humankind who are made in his image? c) What do you think motivated God to leave us in charge of the planet? d) Do you think there are ways men and women can partner to better reflect God's image in the world without having to be married to do so? Talk about it.

SO WHAT?...

5. Review "Take Outs" #2 & 3. Do either of these ever apply to you? Talk about examples. What is one shift or change or correction you can commit to doing this week to better learn from and celebrate and partner with the gender you're not?

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, October 5, 2008