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**Men/Women are Different**

BIG BOARD:

Q: Introduce yourself

Q: What are some difference between men and women?

Men and women are different.

* We communicate differently
* We look at things differently
* We express ourselves differently
* We look upon relationships differently, etc.

Because of these differences, we struggle to communicate, listen and understand each other.

*“Men marry women with the hope they will never change. Women marry men with the hope they will change. Invariably they are both disappointed.” ― Albert Einstein*

**I. Gender is God’s Design\***

***Genesis 1:27-28*** *So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”*

* God’s characteristics are seen in His creation of man and woman.
* The Hebrew scriptures are the only ancient faith that mentions the creation of women and elevates them to equal status with men.
* Male and female have unique characteristics that make us who we are and influence our relationships.
* Both the man and the woman had the command of filling, subduing and ruling.

*Men and women reflect portions of God’s character. They are designed to work together in a complementary way for their unified calling.*

**II. Scientific “Basic” Gender Differences**

**Visual Differences:**

* Women have more receptors in their eyes that allow them to observe greater detail and more vivid color.
* Men’s receptors are enhanced to observe movement.
* Females have a greater ability to recognize and interpret facial expressions, which is why women prefer face-to-face communication.
* Men need to work at being less distracted when talking to someone.

**Hearing Differences:**

* Women can hear many times better than men
* Men lose their hearing at a faster rate than women. Men might not be ignoring you if they don’t hear you. It might just be a challenge.

**Group discussion:**

*Women and Men see and hear things differently based on how they are designed.*

1. Based on this information, think about the opposite sex in your life (family, friends, someone your dating) and how this applies?
2. Based on knowing this information, what are you going to do and what are you going to stop doing?
3. Put it in the form of prayer.

**Stress Reaction Differences:**

* Men and women release different hormones under stress.
* Men *can* feel energized by stress; however, they usually prefer to isolate themselves when they are
* Women *can* feel physically ill but choose to be around friends during this time

**Emotional Differences**

* Men and women have an equal number of emotions.
* Women generally process emotion verbally.
* Men generally process emotion internally.

**Aggression Differences:**

* Men generally enjoy competition and aggression in their relationships. Getting the upper hand in bantering or good-natured put downs are common between men.
* Women, although they can also be competitive, lean towards being nurturing. Men can misinterpret women’s nurturing side with romantic interest.

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**III. Our Roles:**

***Genesis 2:15-17*** *The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”**The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”*

***Genesis 3:16-17 (NIV)****To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.” To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.*

* Man was given the initial vision to cultivate the garden.
* Man was given the role of protector over the garden.
* Man was given limits as to his freedom.
* Woman was given a task to provide critical assistance in achieving the vision. The woman provides assistance through her relational and intuitive insights that God gives her.
* Man and woman were made to be dependent on each other.

But because of Adam and Eve’s fall, men and woman will always struggle with understanding each other, our roles, and our direction. This is why, we must be dependent on God for everything. Only through the Lord will we truly communicate, listen and understand each other with the goal of stronger and healthy relationships that can lead to marriage.

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Q: What are you going to walk away with?

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