

Sermon Notes for August 21, 2011

A Biblical View Of The Home Sermon Series
“How Husbands and Wives Should
Relate to One Another”
Ephesians 5:33

(Skit)

The difference between men and women eating out:

If Laura, Suzanne, Debra and Rose go out for lunch, they will call each other Laura, Suzanne, Debra and Rose.

However, if Mike, Charlie, Bob and John go out, they will affectionately refer to each other as **Fat Boy, Godzilla, Peanut-Head and Scrappy.**

When the bill arrives, Mike, Charlie, Bob and John will **each throw in \$20**, even though it's only for \$32.50. None of them will have anything smaller, and none will actually admit they want change back. When the girls get their bill, **out come the pocket calculators.**

The difference between men and women buying groceries:

A woman makes a list of things she needs and then goes to the store and **buys these things.** A man waits till the only items left in his fridge are **half a lemon and something turning green.** Then he goes grocery shopping. **He buys everything that looks good.** By the time a man reaches the checkout counter, his cart is packed tighter than the Clampett's car on the Beverly Hillbillies. Of course, this will not stop him from going to the 10-items-or-less lane.

The difference between men and women's handwriting:

To their credit, men do not decorate their penmanship. They just chicken-scratch. **Women use scented, colored stationary and they dot their “i's” with circles and hearts.** Women use ridiculously large loops in their “p's” and “g's”. It is a royal pain to read a note from a woman. Even when she's dumping you, she'll put a smiley face at the end of the note.

The difference between men and women asking directions:

If a woman is out driving and she finds herself in unfamiliar surroundings, she will stop at a gas station and ask for directions. **Men consider this to be a sign of weakness.** Men will never stop and ask for directions. Men will drive in a circle for hours, all the while saying things like, “Looks like I've found a new way to get there,” and “I know I'm in the neighborhood. I recognize that Seven-Eleven store.”

Introduction

A. DO YOU REALIZE THAT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN?

1. HOW CAN ANYONE NOT SEE THAT THERE ARE VAST DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN?

a. OPEN YOUR EYES!

- b. LISTEN TO CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN!
2. Now, does the Bible give us any understanding of the difference between men and women; husbands and wives?

B. The BIBLICAL View of Men and Women.

1. **WITHOUT A DOUBT**, the Bible **CLEARLY** teaches that there is a **REAL DIFFERENCE** in men and women.
Genesis 1:27 – “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; **male and female He created them.**”
- a. and while men **AND** women were given a spiritual soul
 - b. **RIGHT HERE IN GOD’S WORD**, it says that God made them **male AND female**
2. And as we shall see today, even **COMMON SENSE** tells us that. **LOOK AROUND!**

C. The PRESENT View of Men and Women.

1. **BECAUSE** we are so confused about the roles of men and women in our society, **AND IN THE CHURCH**, marriages continue to struggle.
2. When all the while, God has clearly set forth in His Word how men and women are to be understood.
3. **I love the wisdom of Joye Adams who has been married to her husband, Neil, for 55 years this June, 2011.**
 - **Women** set the **tone for the family**.
 - **Women** today expect **more from a man** than he is often capable of giving.
 - **Men don’t** look at relationships in the same way women do.
 - When you want a **man’s attention**, **never** speak of important matters until he has been **fed**.
 - **Men** need their **egos** satisfied, women need their **hearts** satisfied.
 - A **working wife** works **physically harder** and **longer hours** than a **working man**.
 - Most **families** are **over-involved in activities**.
 - **Women** are normally the **initiators of communications**.
 - **Men** need time in their “**hole**.”
 - **Men** are **NOT** mind readers.
 - **Men** are **visual beings**.
 - **Women** usually **work harder at “marriage”** than men do.
 - A **man’s physical needs** (exercise, food, comfort) take **priority** over his emotional needs.
 - **Timing is EVERYTHING!**
 - “**To love and be loved in return**” is the greatest reward of a successful marriage.

I. God Made Men and Women Differently Regarding Their PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL MAKE-UP

A. PHYSICAL Differences Of Men And Women

1. **Men and women differ in every cell** in their bodies.

2. **Women** have **greater constitutional vitality** than men and generally **outlive men** by four to eight years.
3. **Women's metabolism** is lower than men's.
4. Compared to men, **women** have a shorter head, broader face, less protruding chin, shorter legs and a longer trunk.
5. **Women** have a **larger** stomach, kidney, liver and appendix.
6. **Men** are **50% physically stronger than women.**
7. **Women** can **withstand higher temperatures than men.**

B. EMOTIONAL Differences Of Men and Women.

1. **Women** are **more relational and personal than men.**
2. **Men** are **more task-oriented**, placing relationships lower on the priority list.
3. To **man**, his **work** and **achievements** occupy most of his mental time.
4. To a **woman**, **her home, family and relationships** occupy most of her mental time.
5. A **man's sense of self** is defined through his ability to **achieve results.**
6. A **woman's sense of self** is defined through **her feelings and the quality of her relationships.**
7. **Men** are **motivated** and **empowered** when they **feel needed.**
8. **Women** are **motivated** and **empowered** when they **feel cherished.**
9. To **illustrate** a truth about men and women:

The difference between a woman and a man's diary (as if a man would have a diary).

The wife's Diary:

Tonight, I thought my husband was acting weird. We had made plans to meet at a nice restaurant for dinner. I was shopping with my friends all day long, so I thought he was upset at the fact that I was a bit late, but he made no comment about it. The conversation wasn't flowing, so I suggested that we go somewhere quiet so we could talk. He agreed, but he didn't say much.

I asked him what was wrong: He said, 'Nothing.' I asked him if it was my fault that he was upset. He said he wasn't upset, that it had nothing to do with me, and not to worry about it. **On the way home, I told him that I loved him. He smiled slightly, and kept driving.**

I can't explain his behavior. I don't know why he didn't say, 'I love you, too.' When we got home, I felt as if I had lost him completely, as if he wanted nothing to do with me anymore. He just sat there quietly, and watched TV. He continued to seem distant and absent. Finally, with silence all around us, I decided to go to bed. About 15 minutes later, he came to bed. But I still felt that he was distracted, and his thoughts were somewhere else. He fell asleep; I cried. I don't know what to do. **I'm almost sure that his thoughts are with someone else. My life is a disaster.**

The husband's Diary:

I played golf today --a four putt; who takes four putts to put the ball in the hole?

C. **ESSENTIAL Differences Of Men And Women.** (From Dr. Willard Harley – His Needs, Her Needs)

1. The **man's five most basic needs in marriage:**

- a. sexual fulfillment
- b. recreational companionship
- c. an attractive spouse
- d. domestic support
- e. admiration

2. The **wife's five most basic needs in marriage:**

- a. affection
- b. conversation
- c. honesty and openness
- d. financial support
- e. family commitment

II. **God Made Men and Women Differently REGARDING THEIR NEEDS.**

A. Women Need **LOVE.**

Ephesians 5:33a – “However, each one of you also must **love his wife as he loves himself.**”

1. **A WOMAN'S NEED for love.**

a. the **definition** of the word **love:**

1. not stergo – a love for family and country
2. not philia – a love for friends
3. not eros – a sexual love
4. **but agape – an unconditional love**

b. the **application** of the word **love:**

1. it is a **present active imperative**

- a. a woman **NEEDS** to be loved . . . every day and all day
- b. **NO MATTER WHAT THEY DO OR SAY!**
- c. husbands are **COMMANDED** to love them, **UNCONDITIONALLY!**

2. but a husband will say; I can't love like that!

- a. a husband may say: “I can love her when she's lovely, I can love her when she's my friend, but I can't love her when she's not lovable.”
- b. but still, the husband will say, I do love my wife, look at the “evidence” of my love:
 1. “I work hard at my job to make a good living to take care of the family.”
 2. “I come home at a reasonable hour and help with the kids.”
 3. “I stay active in church.”

4. "I don't have any hobbies."
5. "I don't have a girlfriend."
- c. **Chuck Swindoll:** "This love described by the word agape is **not merely the natural love of a man for a woman**. As wonderful as such love is, it is not sufficient for the marriage relationship. The love required of husbands is **Christologically defined.**"
 1. **you can't love your wives unconditionally until you are given an unconditional love to be given by Christ**
 2. the greatest evidence of your spiritual life is how you treat your wife
2. **HOW HUSBANDS** can love their wives. (taken from Gary Smalley's, **Hidden Keys To a Loving, Lasting Marriage.**)
 - a. **show** your wife that she is very valuable in your life, **more important** than your mother, your children, your friends and your job
 - b. when your wife is hurting, **show her** that you are **willing to share an intimate time of comfort** without demanding an explanation or giving lectures
 - c. **find ways** to praise her
 - d. **allow her to help you** without fear of retaliation and anger
 - e. **defend and protect her at all costs**
 - f. **share** your life with her in **all areas**
 - g. **hold her tenderly** and **tell her that you love her**
 - h. **pray daily** for her; **be a model of Jesus to her**
 - i. **love her children – unconditionally**
 - j. **NEVER** say anything unless you plan to pass the words through a "**grid of love**" first (show slide)
3. **HOW ONE MAN** loved his wife:
Dr. John Gray, Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus
 Dr. John Gray is a full-time psychologist who typically has seen 8 clients a day:
 "I was ignoring her **not** because I didn't love her or care for her but because **I had nothing left to give**. I naively thought I was doing the best thing by working hard to provide a better life (more money) for her and our family. Once I understood how she felt, I developed a plan for solving this problem in our relationship.
Instead of seeing eight clients a day I started seeing seven. I pretended that my wife was my eighth client. Every night I came home an hour earlier. I pretended in my mind that my **wife was my most important client**. I started giving her that devoted and undivided attention I would give a client. When I arrived home, I started doing little things for her. The success of this plan was immediate. Not only was she happier but I was too.
4. husbands, you need to realize that your wives **NEED** love
 - a. loving your wife is the most important thing that you can do as her husband

- b. in his book, **Love and Respect**, author, **Dr. Emerson Eggerichs**, said that, to a woman “love is their oxygen.”
“A wife needs love just as she needs air to breathe. Picture, if you would, the wife having an air hose that goes to a love tank. When her husband bounds in and starts prancing around like a ten-point buck looking for someplace to graze, **he steps on her air hose.** This does not make her a happy camper. In fact, if she can find a baseball bat or some other weapon, she might just whack the big buck and tell him, **“Get off my air hose; I can’t breathe.”** **Simply put, when her deepest need is being stepped on, you can expect her to react negatively.”**

B. Men Need RESPECT.

Eph. 5:33b – “And the wife must **respect her husband.**”

1. A man’s need for respect.

- a. the **definition** of the word **respect**:
1. the actual meaning of the Greek word for respect is:
 - a. **phobeo**
 - b. to fear; to be afraid
 - c. to be seized with alarm
 - d. revered, veneration
 2. in the Present Middle Subjunctive
- b. the **application** of the word **respect**
1. while the definition of the word respect speaks of fear, it is not fear of the actual man,
 2. but it is a respect and deference to the “**place**” or “**position**” that God has put the husband in the family
 - a. the SAME WORD is used in **Romans 13:3-4**: “(For) rulers **hold no terror (phobeo)** for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be **free from fear (phobeo)** of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, **be afraid, (phobeo)** for he does not bear the sword for nothing.”
 - b. you respect and defer to the “office of husband”
 3. the “fear” spoken of here is knowing that it is God’s will that the husband is in charge. **A wife’s not respecting her husband would be a direct violation of God’s will for you as a wife.**

C. however, it is not just the position that man holds as husband that needs respect; MEN WANT AND NEED RESPECT JUST LIKE A WOMAN WANTS AND NEEDS LOVE

1. **I have asked men and women for years what emotion is more important to them, love or respect.**
 - a. women say love
 - b. men say respect

- c. IT IS THE WAY GOD HAS MADE MEN AND WOMEN!
 2. that's why:
 - a. men are affected by their work
 1. if they fail at work, then they are a failure
 2. work affects our view of self
 - b. men are also affected by their sports
 1. it's all about achievement
 2. they want respect – even through sports
 3. that's why a young boy's biggest hurt may be not making the team – it is a brutal blow to his ego and his “respect factor.”
 3. Harvard trained Psychologist, **Shaunti Feldhahn**, wrote the book, **What Women Need To Know About Men**. Feldhahn interviewed some **400 men**, asking them this question: “If you had the choice between feeling unloved or disrespected for the rest of your life, and these were the only choices you had, which one would you choose? **74%** of the men that she interviewed said, **“I would rather be unloved for the rest of my life than be disrespected for the rest of my life.”**
2. **HOW** a wife can respect her husband. (Most from Gary Smalley's **Hidden Keys of a Loving, Lasting Marriage**.)
 - a. see your role as one of **support, completion and ministry to your husband**
 - b. **look for opportunities** to draw attention to his positive qualities
 - c. carefully consider what he says **without** making a hasty, negative reaction
 - d. don't let a week pass without **expressing appreciation for him**
 - f. **watch your body language** carefully
 - g. never say anything to your husband unless you are going to pass it through the “grid of respect
 3. In as much as love is the need of the wife, respect is the need of the husband
 - a. when the husband does not love his wife, the wife feels as if the husband is “stepping on her air hose.
 - b. when the wife does not respect her husband, he feels as if she is stepping on his air hose
 - c. **MEN NEED THE RESPECT OF THEIR WIVES**
 1. I'm sure that you have all heard one of the greatest hits of all time, sung by Aretha Franklin, **Respect**
 - a. in 1968, Franklin won two Grammys for this hit
 - b. however, do you know who actually wrote the song?
 1. Otis Redding released the song Respect on August 15, 1965
 2. the song was a message to his wife to ask for her respect

2. “What you want, baby, I got it.
 What you need?
 You know I got it.
 All I’m asking is for a little respect when you get home.
 Hey baby, when you get home.”

4. **HOW ONE WIFE** respected her husband.

Dr. James Dobson in one of his Focus on the Family newsletters tells a powerful story of **Dr. E. V. Hill**, a black preacher in Los Angeles who praised his wife by eulogizing her at her funeral:

As a struggling young preacher, E.V. had trouble earning a living. That led him to invest the family’s scarce resources, over Jane’s objections, in the purchase of a service station. She felt her husband lacked the time and expertise to oversee his investment, which proved to be accurate. **Eventually, the station went broke and E.V. lost his shirt in the deal.**

It was a critical time in the life of this young man. He had failed at something important, and his wife would have been justified in saying, “I told you so.” But Jane had an intuitive understanding of her husband’s vulnerability. **Thus, when E.V. called to tell her that he had lost the station, she said simply, “All right.”**

E.V. came home that night expecting his wife to be pouting over his foolish investment. Instead, she sat down with him and said, **“I’ve been doing some figuring. I figure that you don’t smoke and you don’t drink. If you smoked and drank, you would have lost as much as you lost in the service station. So, it’s six in one hand and a half-dozen in the other. Let’s forget it.”**

Jane could have shattered her husband’s confidence at that delicate juncture. **The male ego is surprisingly fragile**, especially during times of failure and embarrassment. That’s why E.V. needed to hear her say, **“I still believe in you”** and that is precisely the message she conveyed to him.

Shortly after the fiasco with the service station, E.V. came home one night and **found the house dark**. When he opened the door, he saw that Jane had prepared a candlelight dinner for two.

“What meaneth thou this?” he said with characteristic humor.

“Well,” said Jane, “we’re going to eat by candlelight tonight.”

E.V. thought that was a great idea and went into the bathroom to wash his hands. He tried unsuccessfully to turn on the light. Then he felt his way into the bedroom and flipped another switch. Darkness prevailed. The young Pastor went back to the dining room and asked Jane why the electricity was off. She began to cry.

“You work so hard, and we’re trying,” said Jane, “but it’s pretty rough. I didn’t have quite enough money to pay the light bill. I didn’t want you to know about it, so I thought we would just eat by candlelight.”

Dr. Hill described his wife’s words with intense emotion: “She could have said, ‘I’ve never been in this situation before. I was reared in the home of Dr. Caruthers, and we never had our lights cut off.’ She could have broken my spirit; she could have ruined me; she could have demoralized me. **But instead she said,**

‘Somehow or another we’ll get these lights on. But let’s eat tonight by candlelight.’

E.V. continued, **“She was my protector.** (Some years ago) I received quite a few death threats, and one night I received notice that I would be killed the next day. I woke up thankful to be alive. But I noticed that she was gone. I looked out the window and my car was gone. I went outside, and finally, saw her driving up in her robe. I said, ‘Where have you been?’ **She said, ‘I . . . I . . . it just occurred to me that they (could have) put a bomb in that car last night, and if you had gotten in there you would have been blown away. So I got up and drove it. It’s all right.’**”

III. God Made Men And Women TO MINISTER TO ONE ANOTHER.

A. The POWER Of The Cycle Of Love And Respect. (slide)

B. The PAIN Of The Cycle Of Love And Respect. (slide)

Conclusion:

1. Husbands, are you aware that your wives not only want you to love them, **BUT WANT YOU TO LOVE THEM UNCONDITIONALLY**
 - a. anyone can love someone who is loving, beautiful, thoughtful and considerate
 - b. but, can you love someone when they are **NOT** loving, haggard, unthoughtful and inconsiderate?
 - C. AND HUSBANDS, CAN YOU LOVE YOUR WIVES WHEN THEY ARE NOT RESPECTFUL OF YOU?**
 - d. my in-laws are a great witness to me about unconditional love
2. Wives, are you aware that your husbands not only want your respect, **BUT THEY WANT UNCONDITIONAL RESPECT!**
 - a. but, wives may say, how can I respect a man who has not yet “earned by respect?”
 1. well, let me ask you wives; **do you want unconditional love?**
 2. if you wives expect unconditional love, can your husbands expect unconditional respect?
 - b. Dr. Emerson Eggerich and his wife, Sarah, lead Love and Respect Seminars. In their “Love And Respect Seminars,” Sarah asked this wife a question she asks many women who arrive at our conferences full of contempt for their husbands: **“What if your son grew up and married some like you?”** The woman’s mouth fell open. She was stunned. For the first time, she saw it! **She would never want any woman to treat her son the way she was treating her husband.** She realized that when her son became a husband, if his wife treated him with such anger and contempt, **his spirit would be crushed and he would shut down in defeat.** When she heard it put this way, a completely new view surfaced. She saw herself more clearly than ever before, and she vowed to change.”
3. a counselor relates this story as she dealt with a woman who was not showing respect to her husband

“Just yesterday, I talked to two new female clients who were wanting to save their marriages that were barely alive. **I asked them if they loved their husbands.** Without hesitation they said, **“Yes,”** **I then asked if they respected their husbands. I got nothing but hesitation!** They sputtered like an old car needing

a tune-up. One of them admitted that she was quite the reader, but she had never heard anything like this before. **She asked me how she was supposed to respect her husband unconditionally.** I told her in the same way that he was supposed to love her unconditionally. **It's only with God's help.** She smiled.”

4. Let me say a word to both the husbands and wives;
 - a. what God is calling all of us to do is impossible, without God's Holy Spirit enabling us to do it
 1. husbands will not be able to love their wives unconditionally
 2. wives will not be able to respect their husbands unconditionally
 - b. that is why the Apostle Paul precedes our text today, Ephesians 5:37 with **Ephesians 5:18** – “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. **Instead, be filled with the Spirit,**”
 1. we need God's Holy Spirit
 2. we need to die to self

5. Story of **Martin Luther**:

During the **great Reformation in Europe**, **Martin Luther** and **Ulrich Zwingli** found themselves **at odds** in their concern for the movements they were leading. Early one morning, Zwingli walked out on the mountains of Switzerland and a soul-stirring sight confronted him. He saw two goats making their way over a narrow path on the mountain. One was ascending the trail, while the other was descending the trail. Zwingli also noticed that they must pass at a point where the trail was so narrow that there was room for only one goat. **He watched to see what would happen.**

The animals rounded a turn in the path which brought them in full view of each other. They backed up, as though ready for a lunge, and then the most amazing thing happened. **The goat on the trail below laid down in the path, while the goat above him walked over his back.** The first animal then arose and continued his journey up the trail.

To Zwingli this meant that the **way down is the way up.** Christ humbled Himself so that men could walk over Him into the kingdom of light, knowing that afterward He would be exalted.