

Happily Married

Class 2 – Oct 27, 2010

- **Ps 128 NLT**

- *1 A song for pilgrims ascending to Jerusalem. How joyful are those who fear the Lord—all who follow his ways!*
- *2 You will enjoy the fruit of your labor. How joyful and prosperous you will be!*
- *3 Your wife will be like a fruitful grapevine, flourishing within your home. Your children will be like vigorous young olive trees as they sit around your table.*
- *4 That is the Lord's blessing for those who fear him.*
- *5 May the Lord continually bless you from Zion. May you see Jerusalem prosper as long as you live.*
- *6 May you live to enjoy your grandchildren. May Israel have peace!*

- We are reminded here that God desires us to have fruitful, productive marriages and homes. Living our lives God's way always produces _____, fruitfulness, joy and _____.

- Prov 24:3 *Through wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established;*

- It takes great _____ and understanding to truly succeed in our marriage relationships. We need the wisdom and understanding from the Word of God as revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. The _____ is filled with instruction for fruitful marriages.

- **Eph 5:15-33**

- One of the things we see clearly here is, in marriage, two distinct people become _____; we have different roles and _____, yet we are one. This is God's plan. In Christ, there is no distinction between male and female, and yet He _____ man and woman differently, endowing them with differing _____.
- As _____ husbands and wives, we each bring expressions of God's _____ into our relationship, and in uniting them, we can more fully _____ the goodness and fullness of God, mirroring the relationship of Jesus and His _____.

Male/Female Differences

- To say that men and women are different may seem to be overstating the obvious, but the truth is that many marital difficulties arise from not properly understanding and _____ these differences.
- Add to it the fact that, within the sexes, everyone has different characteristics, _____, upbringing, and personalities, we can see that in a marriage, there is a great deal of opportunity for _____.
- This diversity brings with it potential for great _____, but also for _____ – we don't always seem to _____ alike, _____ alike, _____ alike, and _____ alike. While this may at first seem to be a problem (aren't we supposed to be in _____?), we must look at it from God's perspective.
- Probably the easiest way to get a basic appreciation of this diversity is this: we all (particularly men) really appreciate the fact that **we don't _____ alike!** Of course, this is one of the main factors that physically _____ us to one another – we look _____.
- We not only accept this, we actually _____ it! This is one way God helps us to appreciate – to _____ – our other differences.
- The first thing God said to man was, “Be fruitful and _____ ...” In the natural kingdom, it is evident that for any type of multiplication to take place, male and female need to join _____. This is God's _____.
- We can be fruitful in terms of having _____ only when husband and wife join together in sexual union
- But let's take that same truth and apply it to other areas:
 - A marriage can only be spiritually fruitful when husband and wife join together _____
 - A marriage can only be emotionally fruitful when husband and wife join together _____
 - A marriage can only be soulishly fruitful when husband and wife join together _____
- And “joining together” doesn't mean always doing the _____ thing, any more than a husband and wife do the *same thing* in a sexual union. It means working _____ for a common result – _____.



- In the garden of Eden, when God saw that Adam needed _____ and companionship, he didn't create a _____, He created a complement.
 - Adam didn't simply need more of _____, he needed someone else – someone _____ . And when he first set eyes on her, he knew instantly that she was for him
 - **Gen 2:23**
- God called Eve a “_____” – this implies someone who can provide _____ strength for us. The only other places in the Bible where this word appears is in reference to _____ Himself. So more than anything, it's important that we view our differences as _____, not weaknesses.
- As we study these differences, we are not suggesting that we can overlook character or personality _____, chalking them up to being a woman or being a man. But before we _____ any of our mate's peculiarities as “flaws,” we must be sure that it's not simply a _____.
- All of the differences we are looking at are tendencies men and women have in the _____ realm, and must be _____ to the Word of God.
 - 1) _____
 - Our physical differences encompass far more than merely what we _____
 - These differences go right down to our DNA in every cell.
 - Our bone and muscle structures have some obvious and not-so-obvious differences.
 - Another important difference is in our _____. Hormones are natural chemicals that our bodies produce, that affect such things as growth and metabolism. Hormones can also affect _____ and _____ patterns.
 - Not only are a woman's hormones different than those in a man, but women's hormones go through regular cyclical _____, whereas men's tend to stay more _____. Neither men's nor women's hormones can be an excuse for inappropriate _____.
 - 2) _____
 - Generally, women are more emotionally oriented, while men are more _____, factual, and detailed. Neither one of these is necessarily bad or good. Both of these are necessary (_____ gave them to us), but both are _____ in their abilities.



- Women are naturally more sensitive to their _____, and this is why making the house a _____ is so important to them.
- These differences can have a significant effect on how we perceive, think, and behave.
- 3) _____
 - Generally, women are more relationally oriented, while men are more _____ - oriented. Men are conquerors, and they want to _____, whereas women are more interested in _____ is doing the job. Women find _____ much more important and interesting than projects, while men thrive on _____.
 - Women can be more intuitive. This means they can come to conclusions or reach solutions without necessarily using _____ or _____.
 - Women can relate on a variety of _____, because they tend to look at the whole rather than individual _____. In a woman, everything is _____, while men can compartmentalise their _____ more easily, and concentrate on _____ thing at a time.
 - Men are not as _____ as women. This starts in childhood, and continues on throughout adulthood.
- This list is by no means exhaustive, but it covers the main differences in our _____ makeup. How these differences play out really is the more important issue. They affect not only our _____ and behaviour, but also our _____ and expectations.
- We must always remember that these differences are natural tendencies, and God calls us to live _____ the natural. We are called to _____ in the spirit, and in doing that, we will see His _____ abounding in our lives.
- We must appreciate and celebrate our differences. We need each other!
- **Differences help provide stability**
 - Stability is determined by _____ and strength.
 - We cannot _____ everything properly on our own. We need others in our lives to bring proper balance to our thinking, and _____ provides a permanent balance.
 - **Ecc 4:8-12**
 - There is great strength in a _____ couple: “1 can put 1,000 to flight, but 2 can put 10,000.” But this is all dependent on our operating in _____.



- Think of the diversity within the unified Body of Christ! There are 7 Motivational Gifts (in various combinations), 9 Manifestations of the Holy Spirit, and 5 Leadership Gifts. We need this diversity in order to get the _____ – no one is capable on his own. The same is true for a _____. God brought you and your spouse together because you need one another along with the diversity of _____ each brings to your marriage.
- Marriage is the most intimate and _____ of all human relationships. It is exclusive, life-long and a life of continual _____ and receiving, sowing and reaping. Just as we daily recognise our need of the Lord in our lives, we need to daily, lovingly _____ and communicate to our spouses our great _____ for them. While we all nod in agreement with these statements because we believe them, it is essential that we learn to practically walk this out in our _____ life.
- **1Pet 3:7-9**
- This is the key to properly appreciating our differences
- It is so important that we learn to _____ our spouses. Our attitude should be first to seek to _____, and then be understood.
- When you know what _____ your spouse – do it! When you know what displeases them – _____ do it!! Because we have differences, we need to _____ what appeals to our marriage partner and not just give what we personally would like to _____ .
 - We also need to _____ our spouses so that we can learn how to complement them, edify, _____ and love them as we are commanded to in Scripture.
 - Be sensitive to your spouse’s _____. Work at remembering them and _____ ways to satisfy them.
- As we learn more about our differences, we must keep an _____ mind and heart. It’s easy to approach your differences with the attitude that your way is the “_____” way. We must accurately divide between principles and _____. Don’t let _____ become annoyances.
 - **Rom 15:7 NIV**
 - *7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*
- As we said earlier, some differences can be character or personality _____. It is always easier to see flaws than strengths, and then _____ on them (Matt 7:3-5). As a spouse, we can bring out the _____ (or the _____) in each other. Don’t work _____ each other, but _____ each other.



- Don't ever _____ your spouse with other specific people, including yourself. This can lead to two difficulties:
 - 1) You are judging that your spouse is not as _____ as someone else, or
 - 2) You are judging that your spouse is _____ than someone else.
 - **1 Pet 3:8-9 MSG**
 - *8 Summing up: Be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble.*
 - *9 That goes for all of you, no exceptions. No retaliation. No sharp-tongued sarcasm. Instead, bless—that's your job, to bless. You'll be a blessing and also get a blessing.*
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FRUIT PRODUCERS:

- Individually, start a list of qualities that you appreciate and admire about your spouse. Each day, add to it, then meditate on these qualities, thanking God for these gifts He has provided (Phil 4:8).
- Together, daily read Eph 5:15-33. Read it in different translations throughout the week.
- Together, share your lists, and express thankfulness for one another's strengths. Take some time to discuss how these qualities complement one another, and pray together about it.

