

God's Design: Gender Differences

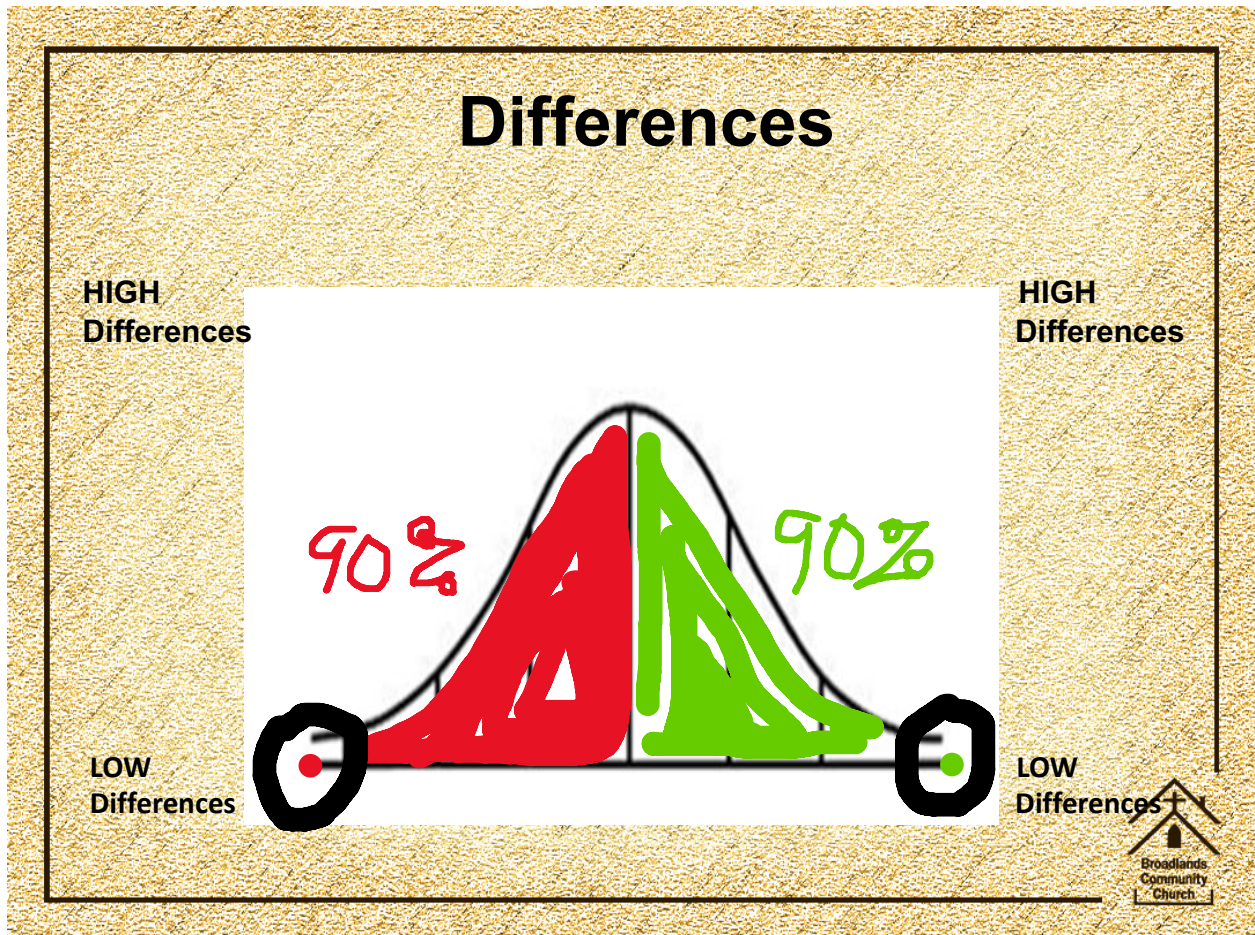
10-20-19

1 Peter 3:7 (ESV)

Husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

We will be looking at God's Design; Gender Differences. In the past few weeks we have looked at God as the Creator of all things, male and female, marriage, culture, and personalities. Now integrated to all this uniqueness and differences, we are going to look at Gender differences. Now in this politically correct culture, this verse could cause some tension. Hopefully as in all Scripture, we will be able to see God's wonderful design. Partially this verse refers to physical strength so we will start there. I recently heard a retired well know woman's tennis champion, declare that having men who declared themselves women to compete with women would destroy women's sports. Since men have have 15% more muscle mass than women, men would always have the advantage. In general men are stronger than women. However, some women may be stronger than some men. Lately I have been going to the gym. At my age I need to do something to keep from falling apart. So, I was at the gym lifting my weights and this lady walked by. Then she grabbed set of heavier weights by me and did about 5 reps looked at me and walked off. However, in this same gym, there are men whose arms are as big as my legs and much stronger than this woman. In the overall population men are generally stronger than women.

This is represented by this Bell Curve.



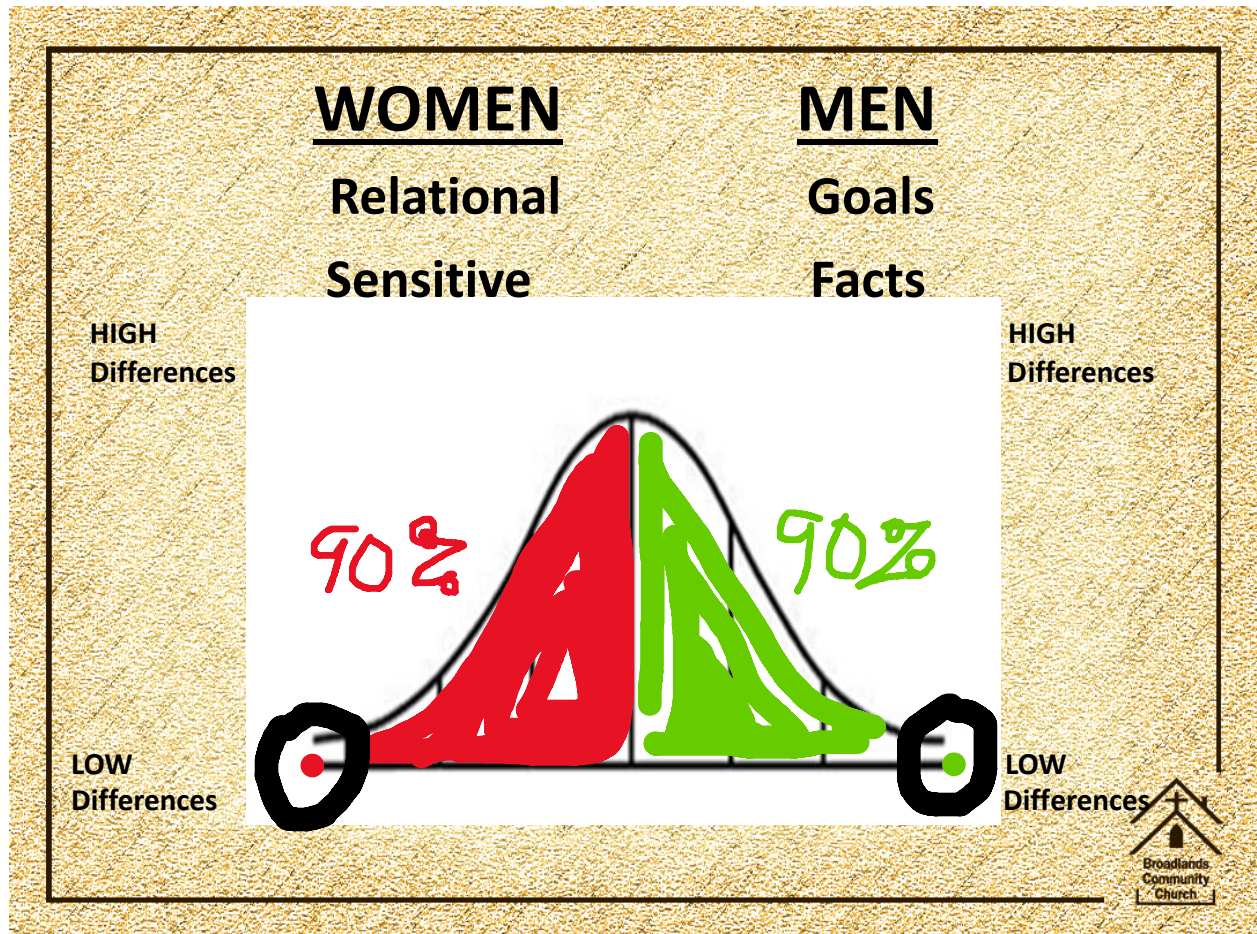
As with physical strength, there are other gender differences. Genesis has evidence of these created gender differences and we can easily observe it in everyday life.

Genesis 2:18 (ESV)

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a woman according to his opposite."

The word fit literally means "like opposite him" or "according to his opposite". See: (5049. נֶגֶד *neged* (Chald.), *neh'-ghed*; corresp. to [5048](#); *opposite*:—toward).

Thus, it is not surprising that in many ways God made men and women opposite. Therefore, as with physical strength, there are other gender differences that fall into this same Bell curve.



To highlight this, we need to look at the most intimate setting; marriage. In my journey to live with my wife in an understanding way, I have identified some gender differences. First of all, women tend to be more sensitive than men. In conversations she will many times use the word “feel” reflecting her sensitive nature of an issue. Second, women communicate relationally meaning that when she states a fact there is always a relational aspect to the statement.

Therefore, when our wives speak to us there is always DUAL MESSAGES; a factual one and a relational one. For Example: 1) Factual message: **Would you take me to dinner.** 2) Relational unspoken but understood message: **Do you love me enough to take me to dinner.** Therefore, guys when we answer yes or no, we are unknowingly answering the relational question, “Do you love me enough to take me out to dinner.” **No is not a very good answer!** This is not as hard as it seems. **As a general rule the woman is interested how you feel about her and how she fits into your life.** Thus, **GREAT WISDOM - ALWAYS answer the unspoken relational question first!** Example: Dear you know I love you more than anything and would love spending dinner with you. **Now the factual question answered second;** We can’t go to dinner because – whatever. **Often the factual message was not the primary message.** The relational message was the primary message. **The husband communicates** using facts with the associated goals. He tends to tell you what he thinks, not what he feels. In one way he can be pretty simple and straight forward. However, he can also be very irritating because he will miss the feeling and the relational aspect of the conversation. As an example, when trying to solve a relational marriage disagreement, husbands will often say, “What do you want me to do?” Put another way, “Give me some facts and a goal to get out of this situation!” On any relational issue, the wife has to communicate some clear end point and share some steps to get there before she can truly bring him around to the relational aspect of the conversation. If you feel there needs to be more communication and you make a factual statement,

“We aren’t talking!” He will answer you with a factual statement, “Yes, we are, I talked to you yesterday at 4:00.” You get the point. Of course, women are factual and have goals plus men can be sensitive and relational. I could continue with a multitude of examples to identify these differences, but I need to address couples who seem to totally defy these generalities. **These would be the extremes noted by the black circles in the bottom on the Bell Curve! God gave me some insight about these extremes. I was doing pre-marriage counseling years ago and everything I share with this couple seemed backwards concerning gender differences. She was a very black and white, goal focused career woman. Plus, she wasn’t very sensitive at all. He, however, was very sensitive. He was easy going and would tear up at any discussion about babies or puppies. Anytime I shared something about men she would say that is more like me and when I shared something about women, he would say that is more like me. I told them this was all the information I had so just work it out the best way you can. One evening they came for their sessions and they both were obviously very upset. Final, I asked, “What is wrong!” He said, “We had a big argument on the way here.” Then she burst out crying. She said, “I had a terrible day at work. Everything went wrong. On the way here, I was sharing my heart with him and he told me that we didn’t have time to discuss my work. Then he told me to get refocused and get prepared for our counselling session. I told him to take me home, I wasn’t going. He said I was being unreasonable.” Then she started crying again.**

Wow, I thought, she is female, and he is male.

She was still the black and white goal focused and he had a very sensitive side. However, what was revealed in this developing intimate relationship that there were deep gender differences that they both needed to understand. By the way they are doing well have four children and still happily married.

Let us revisit our opening verse and include what we have learned about the most intimate of relationships.

1 Peter 3:7 (ESV)

Husbands, live with your wives in an **understanding way**, showing honor to your wife as the more sensitive and relational vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, **so that your prayers may not be hindered.**

To understand anything God is revealing we need to have a relationship with HIM and that comes through Jesus Christ. To restore God's Complete design, HE sent Jesus!

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.