

Men are Old Testament – Women are New Testament

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Text: Galatians 3:15—29

Introduction

The differences between men and women are the source of much comedy material as well as legend. Each gender has often taken their turn pointing out the differences of the others—sometimes good-naturedly and sometimes not.

The differences that we find frustrating as well as funny usually begin in the difference in which men and women think. It all begins in the brain!

As we begin to consider more about the differences between men and women it is worth noting that there are no perfect people. No perfect women. No perfect men. No perfect spouses.

As we look for a Biblical approach to understanding and appreciating the differences between men and women, note the *reasons* why I say Men are OT and Women are NT:

I. The themes of the Old Testament are a fitting description for MEN.

Much of the Old Testament reads like an action adventure. Recorded in its pages along with the commands of God are the historical events of Israel as well the various appearances and miracles of God. In many ways it was a hard life for the people of God. There are stories of battles, sword fights, fire coming down from heaven, enemies being slain, seas parting and men of God wandering in the

unforgiving wilderness. These are images and stories that get the attention of men.

A. Men like instruction that is clear and straightforward.

In the Old Testament God is teaching His people about Himself and His ways. He does this in obvious ways. People die when they disobey. Battles are lost when there is sin in the camp and prophets bring clear and concise instruction to the leaders of God's people. The Old Testament holds for us the Ten Commandments and the Law. If that wasn't clear enough, there was always a prophet or judge reminding the people of the commandments of God. There were the priests who called for sacrifices and offerings that were like a living illustration of what God wanted to teach them. It was a man's world. God said what he meant and meant what He said and no one got it mixed up.

B. Men are more comfortable with taking action than understanding feeling.

II. The themes of the New Testament are a fitting description of WOMEN.

Women fit the theme of the NT because much of the NT is focused on relationships—our relationship with God and our relationship with others. There is talk of the family of God, loving your neighbor, being kind-hearted and forgiving, and love being identified as the greatest of all virtues. There is talk of putting down the sword and fighting is all about fighting the good fight of faith. The weapons and the armor of the NT are not made of metal but they are spiritual. In the NT there are garden scenes, Jesus is the Good shepherd that lays down His life for others so that they do not have to lay down their lives.

A. Women naturally connect experience with emotion.

In the NT God's method of teaching His people is through the ultimate example of Jesus Christ. There are no tablets of stone; there is only Jesus—flesh and blood. Now it is not just “know the commandments” but also “know your heart.”

B. Women are more comfortable when action is connected to feeling.

CONCLUSION

The proper balance is a mixture of OT and NT—the best virtues of men and of women together. **This balance is both:**

- Inward and outward,
- Literal and figurative,
- Action and feeling.

Jesus is both:

- The Lion and the Lamb,
- Lord God Jehovah and Savior,
- The Master and also the friend who sticks closer than a brother,
- He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords and yet He is our elder brother.

The strength of a man is complimented by the tenderness of a woman.

Men protect. Women nurture. Together in Christ, they are ONE.