TITLE: The Battle of the Sexes

TEXT: Gen. 1:27; Gen. 2:24; Gen 1:1; Ephe 5:21

INTRODUCTION: The battle of the sexes is really nothing new. There was a movie made clear back in 1959 called ‘The Battle of the Sexes” with Peter Sellers and Constance Cummings playing the lead characters. It was a comedy about a Man-eating businesswoman who is sent by her US company to Edinburgh to investigate export opportunities. She meets businessman Robert MacPherson played by Sellers en route and he persuades her to help bring his company into the 20th century. The staff have other ideas and a battle between the old male methods and the new female business methods breaks out.

 There has also been several books written over the years with this central theme..

 I once ran across a web page with the title: The Battle of the Sexes…. I went into it cautiously but found it to be rather harmless. Actually if was kind of funny…

 Let me give you some quotes or one liners I found listed there::

*When God finished the creation of Adam, He stepped back, scratched his head, and said, "I can do better than that!"*
 *Boys are like lava lamps: fun to look at but not so bright.

They call it P.M.S. because "mad cow disease" was already taken.*

*A little bit of powder, a little bit of paint, makes a girl's complexion seem what it ain't*

*A man is like a fine wine. He starts out raw as grapes and it's a woman's job to stomp on him and keep him in the dark until he matures into something she'd like to have dinner with.

After a few weeks of Adam being by himself in the garden of Eden, he got lonely. So he went to God and asked for a companion. God said he would look into it and get back to him the next day. So the next day God went to Adam and said 'Here Adam, I can make a beautiful woman that cooks, irons, cleans, never complains and is pretty much just what you want, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg, what do you think' Adam thought for a few seconds and then asked 'what can I get for a rib?

 An English professor wrote on the blackboard: Punctuate this sentence: 'Woman without her man is nothing'. The men wrote: 'Woman, without her man, is nothing.' All the women wrote: 'Woman! Without her, man is nothing.'

Any married man should forget his mistakes - there's no point in two people remembering the same thing...*

There is some humor to be found in the battle of the sexes but there is also a very serious side to it as well.

I read an article once titled “The war against boys”.

There was a new school built in Atlanta that had all the amenities that you would expect a new school to have: Computer equipment, an up-to-date library, modern classrooms and a fine cafeteria. It has everything except a playground.

 And that wasn’t an oversight. The school was designed that way to make little boys behave more like little girls.

 In 1998, Atlanta eliminated recess in all of its elementary schools.

 Cities such as Philadelphia, retained something called recess, but it bears little resemblance to the playtime most of us would probably remember as children growing up.

 Why are some school districts doing this? A woman author by the name of Christina Hoff Summers in her book “The war against Boys: How misguided feminism is Harming our Young Men” says that many educators today are intolerant of boys acting like boys---moving—making noise—and engaging in robust play. She says that this intolerance goes beyond just the need for order and discipline. The rule is no running or jumping and any boy who engages in normal, playful activity frequently face punishment or are sent home.

 She says It is revealing that over 95 percent of children taking Ritalin today—a drug used to treat hyperactivity---are boys.

 Michael Gurian, the author of “The good son: Shaping the moral development of our boys and young men” says that if Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer were in today’s schools they would probably be labeled ADD, having attention deficit disorder and would be drugged.

 Behind this campaign against what Summers calls youthful male exuberances is, in her words, “Misguided feminism”.

 Many feminists insist that it is maleness itself—defined by characteristics like aggressiveness, competitiveness and assertiveness—that causes violence.

 In Summer’s opinion This view has found a receptive audience in the field of education which is today dominated by women and the result is what Summers calls feminizing boys: policing characteristically male behavior and getting boys to participate in characteristically feminine activities.

 As a result she says that our sons often think that there is something wrong with being a boy.

 She says that this war that our culture is waging on boys is not only cruel, it is also culturally disastrous.

Turn with me to: **Genesis 1:27 (NIV)** **27So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.**

When God created man in his own image and His own likeness He created them male and female…

What does this tell us?

 One thing that it tells us that we do not see the best reflection of the image and likeness of God within males.

 Nor do we see the best reflection of the image and likeness of God within females.

 We see the best reflection of the image and likeness of God within male and female when they come together in the covenant bond of marriage….

 When God created us male and female, it was in part an acknowledgement that the attributes of both sexes were intended to complement each other and achieve results that neither sex acting on their own could achieve.

 And not just in talking about procreation, having children and bearing offspring, but in every other part of life as well.

God never intended that the sexes be in battle with one another but he intended that they complement one another.

 The two coming together would make more of a whole then if they remained separate.

 God created us male and female, not for the purpose of division but for the purpose of unity.

A scripture that I will often go to in pre-marital counseling is:
 **Genesis 2:24 (NIV)** **24For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.**

There is an interesting combination of words used here….

 **For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.**

Where the NIV uses the word United—The King James uses the word cleave unto.

United/cleave unto

***daw-bak'***

**A primitive root; properly to *impinge*, that is, *cling* or *adhere*;—abide, cleave, follow close (hard, after), be joined (together), stick.**

 The man and woman will adhere! They will unite together and will become one flesh!

**One= *ekh-awd'***

**properly *united*, that is, *one*; or)  alike, altogether.**

Flesh=

***baw-sawr'***

**by extension *body*, *person*; flesh, kind, self, skin.**

This speaks of two separate parts uniting together to become one whole!

This in itself is a miracle of unprecedented proportions!

Example:

 When our granddaughter Mia was a baby Pam and I had got her a toy at a garage sale. It was a Tigger the tiger. You press on its head and it starts talking and jumping up and down.

Mia was terrified of it and would run the other direction saying No! No if we got it out. So we put it up.

 We got it back out for our grandson Cassius when he was a toddler to see how he would respond to it. He loved it!

 I guess it could be described as an aggressive toy.

Mia responded to it probably how most little girls would respond and Cassius responded to it probably how most little boys would respond.

 Was either right or wrong in their response? NO! God has created them differently!

 I came from a family will all boys and I didn’t have sisters around growing up. I did have girl cousins and friends who had little sisters and while us boys were out playing war and cowboy and Indians the girls where playing with dolls and having tea parties and playing house.

As boys we didn’t think what the girls were doing was any fun at all…As I am sure the girls didn’t want to play war or cowboy and Indian with us….

You could see Gods master design being displayed even way back then…..

And guess what we were really doing as children in our play times?

Preparing for the roles that we would most likely fulfill as adults!

Culturally in the West things have changed somewhat, but traditionally it was the man that was expected to go out and fight the wars and protect the home while to woman was the anchor within the home and the nurturer of the children…

Little girls in playing with dolls and having pretend tea parties and playing house where preparing for their probable future roles as an adult.

Just as when little boys playing war and roughhousing were preparing for their probable future rolls as an adult.

 To say that little boys should play like little girls or little girls should play like little boys is to mess with Gods creative design and create an atmosphere that can lead to a war between the sexes.

A lot of the post-marital counseling that I have been involved in seems to stem from a misunderstanding or non-understanding of how God has designed us as men and women.

Do you realize that God has created men and women with different brains? Actually it is the same brain just wired differently!

 Males are predominantly right side of the brain dominant.

 Females are predominantly left side of the brain dominant.

 In other words, most men primarily use the right side of their brains while most women primarily use the left side of their brains.

 The right side of the brain is the side where the logic resides. The right side controls things such as aggressiveness and competitiveness.

 The left side of the brain is the seat of emotion and is where the senses operate from.

 That is why most men are aggressive, competitive and painfully logical at times.

 And it is why most women are more emotional than men and are a lot keener with their senses.

 Most men are to some degree color blind while most women have amazing perceptions of color.

Most women’s perception of taste, touch and smell are far greater than most men’s.

 Not only is the side of the brain that we men operate from different but you ladies have 60% more inter connective tissue between the right and the left sides of your brains then we do. The right and left sides of your brain communicate with each other better than ours.

What does that mean? Most men are singularly task orientated while most women are multi-task oriented.

EXAMPLE: A man gets home from work and his wife ask him how his day went and he will usually answer with 1 or 2 words—Good, Bad or OK. A man gets home from work and his wife has had a tough day with the kids and everything imaginable has gone wrong….

 The husband may ask how her day went and he better get ready to sit down because she is going to give him a play by play of her entire day!

 If She has had 100 problems that day and she lays them all out in front of him what happens? This is male overload! He can’t handle 100 problems laid out in front of him all at the same time because of the way his brain is wired.. So what does he do?

He does what is logical! He stacks them up and takes them one at a time! He is not multi task oriented. He is singularly task oriented. And the right side of his brain, his logic, tells him that he can only do one thing at a time anyway.

 Now if he is in a boardroom or on a battle field where logic and assertiveness and aggressiveness is called for then it works very well for him.

If a woman is in the home raising and nurturing children then being able to multi-task and express ones emotions and have keen senses about them is essential…

There are exceptions to every rule but for the most part women are far better at nurturing young children then men are and men are far better at going to war and fighting in the boardroom then women are.

The best example in showing the difference between the way men and women have been wired by God, I believe, is in the way that we approach shopping..

As a man when I go shopping I shop totally differently than my wife Pam does….

#1. I know what I want and I know where to go to get it so I do the logical thing. I go to that store and I pick up the item and I pay for it and then I go home!

That is not the way Pam likes to shop….

She may know what she wants but she will very seldom just go and buy it. If she is at the mall she may find what she wants in the first store she goes into but she will not buy it there.

 She will go to another store or maybe a bunch of other stores to see if they have something better or for a better price…. Now what drives me totally crazy from my male perspective is not that she goes to more than one store but that many times after going to several stores she ends up going back to the first store and making the purchase or she will not buy anything at all and still goes home happy.

This drives most men crazy because we operate out of the right side of our brain, the side of logic and this is simply not logical.

Most women operate out of the left side of their brains, the side that controls the senses and the emotions and for them shopping is not something that you approach logically; It is something that you approach experience-icaly .It is an experience!

So what is the answer? How do we put an end to the battle of the sexes that so often comes to the surface because of these kind of differences between men and women, especially between husbands and wives.

It comes down to UNDERSTANDING!

**Genesis 1:1 (NIV)** **1In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ….. And it was good!**

After each creative act of God scripture says that God stood back and pronounced what he had just created as good.

 After he created mankind on the sixth and final day of creation it says that God stood back and looked upon what he had created and said that it was very good!

Hebrew word for good used is:

***tobe***

**From****H2895****; *good* in the widest sense, a  *good* thing—beautiful, best, better, precious**

 **27So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.**

**24For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.**

God created the sexes differently, not for the sake of diversity and division, but to bring about an ultimate unity.

 God created us male and female. His ultimate design was to reveal himself, not within man nor within woman alone, but the most complete image, reflection and revelation of himself is revealed the best within man and woman.

 I believe it is when man and woman unite together in the covenant bond of marriage that we see the best and most comprehensive reflection of the image of God!

 When God created us he created us male and female.

 Within the man He placed some of His attributes and characteristics. Within the woman He placed some of His attributes and Characteristics.

 And the world will see the best and most complete reflection of God when the man and the woman come together in the covenant bond of marriage and become as one flesh.

This I believe is when we see the best reflection of the image and likeness of God.

 So Gods’ admonition to us as men and women, especially as husbands and wives….

**Ephesians 5:21 (NIV) 21Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

*The Greek word for Submit used is:*

 ***hoop-ot-as'-so***

**to *subordinate*; reflexively to *obey:*—be under obedience, put under, subdue unto, make- subject, be in subjection to or under.**

We are to subordinate to one another out of our Reverence for Christ.

One way that we submit or subordinate ourselves to one another, especially as a husband and a wife, is by learning to appreciate and even celebrate the differences that God has created within us.

God never intended that there be a battle between the sexes.

 God never intended that the differences that He created within us would be something divisive but that those differences would be something that would unite and unify and complement one another.

 Do you know why the call catsup and mustard and pickle relish compliments? Because they complement whatever you put them on. They make your burger or hot dog taste better…

We need to appreciate and affirm the differences that God has placed within our sons and daughters.

We need to let and encourage little girls to be little girls and let and encourage little boys to be little boys.

As Husbands and wives we need to see and appreciate the differences that God had designed within us. Realizing that we were created for unity within our diversity!

That what we lack as husbands God has many times provided for us in our wives and what you may lack as wives God has many times provided in your husbands and that together we make more of a whole then we would ever be apart.

 It is within man and woman that we see the best reflection of the one in whose image we have been created.

Scripture tells us that we have all been fearfully and wonderfully made by God.

This morning do you see and appreciate and even celebrate the differences that God has designed within His creation of the sexes?

Differences, that where never intended to bring about divisiveness but were intended to bring unity and completeness so that the world could see the best reflection of its creator….

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for the diversity that you have placed within creation.

Lord, help us to not do anything to fuel the fire of the battle between the sexes. Give us the spiritual sight to see the wonder and the grace and the perfection that you have placed within your creative design.

May we help our sons and our daughters become the men and women that you desire them to be.

That they would understand that they have all been fearfully and wonderfully made and that they are to be a reflection of you within their world.

Lord, help us as men and women and husbands and wives to see the greatness of your creative design in our own lives and not see our differences as something to divide us but see those differences as things that you have intended to unite and unify and strengthen us making us better reflections of you within our world.

As husbands and wives let us see the value and great worth of our mates and how that you have truly blessed us with each other in the diversity of your creative work…

May our primary purpose in life, whether male of female, husband or wife, son or daughter, be to be the best reflection of you that we can possible be in the part of the world that you have placed us…

Amen