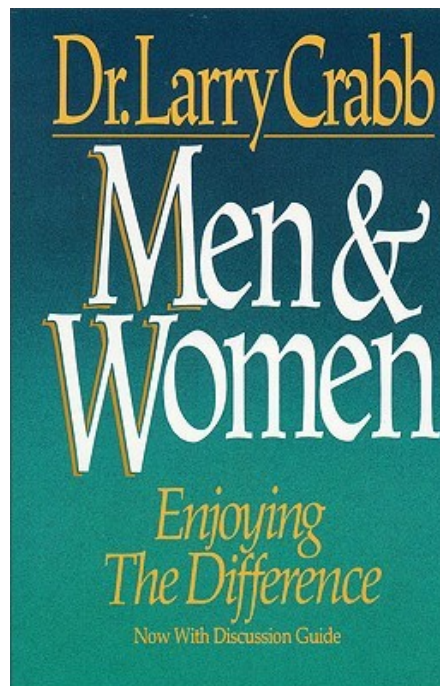




Men & Women: Enjoying the Difference

Larry Crabb

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What does it take to get along for a lifetime? Men and women share a deadly problem that kills good relating. The problem is this: we are committed, first of all, to ourselves. Each of us, without blushing, holds fast to an overriding concern for our own well-being. Giving numerous examples from his counseling and speaking ministry, Crabb explores how we can turn away from ourselves and toward each other, how we can become what he calls "other-centered." Dr. Crabb maintains that men and women are different in important ways that, if understood and honored, can lead to a deep enjoyment of one another, an enjoyment that can last forever.

Men & Women: Enjoying the Difference Details

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From Reader Review Men & Women: Enjoying the Difference for online ebook

Steve Savig says

Study with Gregg Knoll & Gary Goldfain. Fun to work through this topic with Gary while dating Karby.

Asher Witmer says

Deals with the core issue in relationships.

Lorie says

Every book I've read about the differences between men and women (secular or Christian) immediately focuses on either emotions or behavior and never mentioned ENJOYING them! Why women think as they do...Why men act as they do...Dr. Crabb leaves his "anatomy" lesson for the last quarter (beginning at chapter 8 of 12 in the book)! He comes out of the gate defining why intentions and motivations matter more than feelings and actions. As a licensed psychologist and Christian counselor, he argues that not only is the current trend of therapy to "heal" the self-esteem or "build confidence" in a patient in order to heal broken relationships (i.e. marriages) fruitless but it is actually making matters worse!

Dr. Crabb drives his point home by clearly stating his thesis in the chapter called "The REAL Problem," and I am paraphrasing:

Until we stop being so self-focused and become "OTHER-centered," our relationships don't stand a chance--regardless of what the biological and psychological differences are between a man and a woman!

Crabb goes on to argue that, without God's mercy and our own understanding of the need for forgiveness, we will never be able to reach the goal of becoming "other-centered."

So his two-step process involves first a humble petition to God to help us see our own shortcomings (i.e. human-ness) and then to allow us to use the differences he designed into us (i.e. man-ness and female-ness) so that we may bless others (i.e. our partner of the opposite sex) in a way that will bring out what God intended for our partner to be.

This is no short order! Crabb tears apart how counseling (especially psychotherapy) does not statistically SOLVE the relational problems because it tends to make the patient more focused on him/herself! How many of us have spent \$1000s in marriage or relationship counseling to realize we've just been digging a deeper hole? Ugh!

The poignancy of Crabb's argument is brought home in his analysis that male and female humans were BUILT to relate, but since the fall of Adam and Eve have been cursed in this regard. When we put ourselves above God and everyone else, we are blinded to our own faults (i.e. the "log" in our own eye, Matt. 7). Crabb uses this physical example to demonstrate the personal sexuality differences between man and woman:

Men feel complete as they "strongly enter" into a relationship, and women feel enjoyed as they "warmly invite" (p. 163). Crabb does not shy away from the legalists who define the differences as pragmatic ROLES, nor does he back away from the egalitarians that defend the equal-partnership marriage to the death. Crabb meets somewhere in between and argues that it's not about roles or worth...it's about intention.

If I do what I can to bless my husband even (or especially) when he deserves otherwise--then he sees my action as an invitation to ENTER into a connection instead of continuing to defend the distance between us. My femininity is then the PERFECT WEAPON against his throes of selfishness! And vice-versa...If I am treating my husband with disrespect and pushing him away with unkind or domineering words, he can choose to bless me with his confident strength that always melts my heart. He loves his wife. She respects her husband. Not only does Crabb deliver a believable argument with his analysis and experience, but also he shores its credibility by backing it up every step of the way with scripture!

This book gets 5 stars - it's worth a read!

Bree says

Meh. I liked the first part about selfishness. But the second half (the part that was about the differences) was vague. It's not that I didn't agree with what Crabb said. It's that he didn't say anything at all.

Taylor Tyndall says

Really liked this one. It was very practical, convicting, and not about rules/roles but grace and service in a marriage. Would definitely recommend.

Teri says

always good to read up on relationship advice

Kim Winters says

The helpfulness of this book surprised me. Crabb takes a good, theraputic and biblical look at how men and women are different at the level of the soul and why/how that impacts interdependence and intimacy. I came to this book with low expectations (mostly because of how old it is) and left encouraged and inspired!

Brandon Current says

"Read and keep as resource. Larry Crabb doesn't address the topic of gender until the second half of this

book on marriage and gender roles. The first half is about our own selfishness and sinful motives that usually color the debate. This is absolutely the correct way to begin the book, and makes it a great book for general Christian maturity even outside of the gender issues it eventually addresses.

When he does get to gender differences, he keeps the emphasis on how our differences are built to fulfill the other in relationship, rather than on roles and specifics. As always, Crabb hits the nail on the head with where our hearts need to change. If our focus is on what the other needs and how we can meet those needs, we will naturally express our gender differences.

In the last few chapters he addresses headship and submission, but by this point it is clear that what is needed is headship that moves into the woman's life for the purpose of satisfying her desires, and submission that invites the husband in to know and enjoy. This is a new, creation-centered approach to the old discussion that unhelpfully divides the issue along the lines of "where is the authority in relationships.""

Kacie says

What I loved about this book was that the entire first half of the book hardly mentioned marriage or roles and instead dug into the core problem of our individual selfishness. I found it convicting and refreshing. The second half of the book is Crabb attempting to present his view of roles in marriage (he is complementarian but doesn't appreciate much of the presuppositions he finds in the complementarian camp). This section is just one of many voices in the current debate, with the benefit of adding the experience of a counselor. He believes that we are different but equal in worth, and are called to serve each other with our unique differences.

Vaclav says

excellent! one of the best books i read on the topic. i read it in two days, it was so helpful! met Dr.Crabb at a conference at my church in Toronto. ;)
