

We're Different And So Are You

1. Tell about a time when how you were different from someone caused conflict.
2. Tell about a time when how you were different from someone made things better because of the complimentary differences?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12. Paul is speaking of spiritual gifts in this passage but he is giving important principles for how we are to think about each other in our differences. How does believing verse 7 affect how we see other people?
4. Look at 1 Corinthians 12:18. If God is doing the arranging in our relationships, how does this help us appreciate others?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 12:27. Paul connects two opposing thoughts : oneness and individuality. How can two people be "one body" and not lose their individuality?
6. Of the four "Dark Sides of Differences," which one do you wrestle with most? How do you keep this from damaging your relationships?
7. David and Pam talked about three essential Biblical actions a husband and wife must practice to get along with our differences: i) Reveal Christ through sacrificial love ii) Submit to one another and iii) Respect one another. What makes these three so powerful in building a strong relationship? How are they practically lived out?
8. How have you realized you need to think differently about differences?
9. What are you going to do differently over the next two weeks that will help you value the differences in your marriage or relationships? Share this with your Life Group or a close friend and ask them to follow up with you and ask how you are doing in a couple weeks.

Two-Getherness - "We're Different and So Are You"

I Corinthians 12

David and Pam's Differences

Did You Know Men and Women Are Different?

1. Biological Differences

2. Brain Differences

Scientists have discovered about 100 gender differences in the brain. Here are just four that make a difference:

1. Processing
2. Chemistry
3. Structural Differences
4. Blood Flow and Brain Activity

Appreciating the Differences

A. Different By Design

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good"

"All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit who apportions to each one individually as he wills."

"For the body does not consist of one member but of many."

"But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose."

"As it is, there are many parts, yet one body."

"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (1 Corinthians 12:7,11,14,18, 20, 27 ESV)

The Dark Side of Differences

a) Differences Differences Can Cause Clashes

Acts 15 - Paul and Barnabas' "sharp disagreement"

Most people's problems are strengths out of balance.

b) Being _____

"You need to be more like me and because you aren't means there's something wrong with you."

c) The Danger of _____

1 Samuel 25 - The story of David, Nabal and Abigail

When we are under stress, we default to our most dominant strengths and they can get out of balance.

d) _____ **More Than Your Spouse or Your Marriage**

"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think..." (Romans 12:3-5, ESV)

How To Get Along

a) _____ **Through Sacrificial Love**

Ephesians 5:25, 1 Peter 3:1-4

b) _____ **To Each Other**

Ephesians 5:18-21, Ephesians 5:22

c) _____ **Each Other**

Ephesians 5:33, 1 Peter 3:7

We Need Jesus

a) Differences are not weaknesses in your marriage, they are what give your marriage strength - when you value those differences.

b) To live well together requires _____ and _____.

Answers: Devalued, Stress, Loving Yourself, Reveal Christ, Submit. Respect. Humility, Grace.