**2-24-2018**

**Discussion Guide**

**What God Has Joined Together: Man Caves and She Sheds**

**NOTE:** For this discussion to go well, we will need to consider it from different perspectives in our own lives. If we are married (or have been married) of course we can think about our spouses. But we should also consider the topic outside of our marriages: observations of our friends, our siblings, and especially our parents and grandparent relationships.

1. Do you have a man cave or a she shed or know people who do? Describe the ones you have seen. What do you think is driving this separate spaces trend? When is it healthy and when could it be unhealthy?
2. We played a gender differences game – according to science (soft and hard) – statements like “(women) have better sight and are able to see more colors”. Were there statements that surprised you? Were there some you would like to argue against? Were there some that were just interesting? Talk about the reasons these might be true or false.

Women - Have better sight and are able to see more colors.

Males - Naturally use movement to think.

Women - Have better hearing.

Men - Have bigger brains.

Women - More adept at verbally expressing their emotions.

Boys - More likely to use a stick as a sword or weapon in play.

Males - More likely to take risks.

Women - More easily startled.

Men - More likely to overestimate their ability.

Men - More likely to die from an accident.

Men - More likely to perceive a neutral face as unfriendly.

Women - More likely to exhibit aggression verbally.

Women - Use both sides of the brain to respond to emotional experiences.

Men - more motivated by sex.

Women - Read subtle emotions better

Women - More attracted to status than physical attributes in relationships.

Women - Desire to be pursued more than pursue.

Men - More likely to fall in love at first sight.

Men - More comfortable lying to the opposite sex.

Women - Their brains are more 'flexible’.

Men - More likely to physically play their kids.

Men - More likely to base friendships on common activities rather than emotional connections.

Men - Brains suffer from aging at earlier ages.

Both - Are more irritating.

Men and Women: Require more of God’s grace more often.

Both - Are created more in God’s image.

Both - Have greater potential to please God.

Why did Doug include the last 4?

**Read Genesis 1:26-28**

Why do you think the text specifically mentions “male and female” here instead of just introducing Eve in chapter 2 (rib – creation of Eve)?

What do Adam and Eve have in common? (make a list)

If Jewish culture really thought of women as being inferior to men, why would we find this passage in their scriptures?

**Read Ephesians 5: 15, 21-33**

Why is this a challenging passage for many of us?

Why is it critical to read this chapter under the umbrellas of verse 15 and 21?

Noting that Paul gives advice to husbands, wives, children, slaves and masters – why is the chapter break between 5 and 6 unfortunate editorial decision?

(note Christians don’t typically hold verse numbering and chapter divisions as “God’s Word” – but as for our convenience)

What are your takeaways from these verses in husband wife mutual submission?

What happens to every marriage if our focus is on how the other spouse is living up to his/her verses?

**Read Galatians 5:22-23**

Which gender do these verses apply to?

Which fruit might be more challenging to one gender or the other?

Or do you think that is a stupid question? Fine, why?

If we could perfectly live out the fruit of the spirit… would we need Ephesians 5:21-33? What does that say about our nature? What does it mean should be our focus in our own development and relationships (marriage and other)?

FROM THIS STUDY – what is some advice you would have singles?

What are some of your takeaways?