

Men & Women: Jewish View of Gender Differences

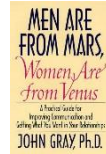
Compiled by Rabbi K.

“G-d created the man in His image; in the image of God He created him,

male and female He created **them**. And G-d blessed **them**...”(Genesis 1:27-28)

כִּי וַיִּבְרָא אֱלֹקִים אֶת־הָאָדָם בְּצַלְמוֹ בְּצַלְמֵ אֱלֹקִים בָּרָא אֹתוֹ זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה בָּרָא אֹתָם: כֹּחַ וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתָם...

1. Adam was not split down the middle; rather, Eve was created from an internal organ – his rib.
2. *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus* by Dr. John Gray
3. Most of Judaism applies equally to men and women.



However, the Torah's system of **spiritual achievement and happiness** applies **differently** to the two genders.

- Women-
 - Men-
4. Eve....**vayiven**, "God built." ~ **binah**, "insight" or understanding. **ויבן = בנה**
 5. **Women** have **Binah** = ability to enter something and understand it from the inside – "inner reasoning."

Men tend to have **Da'at**, an understanding which comes from the outside. More connected to facts and figures.

6. Research Study in 2010 by Ralph Holloway and Christine de Lacoste-Utamsing, Jeanette McGlone, and Doreen Kimura.
 - Equal but Different. Since the genders are different, it's counterproductive to force them to act identically.
7. Rambam (Maimonides): "Men should respect their wives and women should respect their husbands."
8. Rabbi David Clyman's Informal Study of 50 young professional.
9. **Kavod** = "respect." or "heavy." A heavy object is something that I've got to deal with. If it's light, I just kick it out of the way. **כבוד = כבד**

For your consideration:

1. Does the Torah prefer one gender over another? How do you know?
2. What does "Equal but Different" mean?
3. What would the Torah consider a healthy boy/girl relationship in 6th grade?
4. What would the Torah consider a healthy boy/girl relationship when married?
5. How can we apply **kavod** to the opposite gender?