



*The Renaissance
of Marriage*

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Gender Collide

*When two
worlds meet*

Gender differences

- **We have fundamental difference in many areas**
- **These differences underpin our complementary – we are made for union**
- **In our ‘fallen state’ these differences have a shadow side**

Gender differences

	Man Active Initiation	Woman Active Receptivity
Sex	Penetration	Reception
Parenting	Pushes away	Draws close
Morality	Strength vs weakness	Beauty vs Ugliness
Survival Strategy	Fight or Flight	Tend & Befriend
Relational Emphasis	Protective	Nurturing

Shadow side

Psychic terrors

Men: Shame vulnerability
(fear of failure, impotency)

Women: Abandonment anxiety
(fear of aloneness, harm)

Reactions to fear

- **Woman's fear of abandonment**
 - **control (anger)**
- **Man's fear of inadequacy**
 - **irresponsibility (apathy)**
- **Anger/apathy is the response to emotional threat... and become habitual behaviour (self protecting)**

Curse of original sin

Women's particular disability and man's particular responsibility

- **Women's receptivity becomes burden, not gift**
- **Man is to called to be the guardian of her receptivity**

Curse of original sin

**Man's particular disability and
woman's particular responsibility**

- **Man's *initiation* becomes burden,
not gift**
- **Woman is to called to be the
enabler of his initiation**

Fear is the antithesis of love

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fear is not made perfect in love

1 John 4:17-19