

Welcome back to The Marriage Melody, where we are composing a lifetime of love and happiness with our husband. I am your host, Rivkah Harper.

We will begin with last week's homework, which focused on not interrupting your husband. Although it may seem like an easy task, it proves to be one of the most challenging for my students. We often find ourselves caught up in multitasking, such as preparing dinner, talking on the phone with a friend, and attending to a child's questions without thinking anything of it. Is there anything wrong when we are engaged in a discussion with our husband to briefly shift our attention to address a child? After all, as mothers, it is our responsibility to care for our children, then afterwards we promptly redirect our focus back to our husband and the ongoing conversation.

Before we delve into answering that question, let us take a step back and try to gain a better understanding of what it means to be a male or a female. Society wants us to believe that men and women are equal. Nevertheless, as we will shortly see, men and women are anything but equal. We possess fundamental differences from one another. Our perceptions, our actions, and our approaches to task vary significantly. In fact, we couldn't be more different when compared to our husband. We are like polar opposites. We are similar to magnets where the south pole of one magnet is irresistibly attracted and bound to the north pole of another magnet. Our husband is attracted and attached very strongly to us. We are not equal. However, we should be equally respected.

I once heard someone explain that he prefers to discuss male character traits and female character traits rather than discussing the individuals as male or female. The reason behind this is that each one of us possess a unique combination of both male and female traits. While men predominantly exhibit male character traits with a sprinkling of female traits, women predominantly display female character traits with a few male traits mixed in, resulting in each one of us being a unique individual.

It is important to note before we move forward that when I discuss the nature of men and women, I'm talking about a generalization. There are always exceptions to the rules, which is why it is very helpful to examine things in terms of character traits. Each of us is a distinct person and possess our own set of traits. By understanding the various components that constitute our overall makeup, we not only gain a better understanding of ourselves, but also of other people.

So what defines male character traits? Well, a straightforward way to grasp this is by considering the physical realm. Men tend to be more inclined toward physicality. They are generally taller and stronger than women, often choosing careers in fields like construction, plumbing, and electrical work. They also make up the majority in fields such as sciences, math, and engineering, due to their ability to generate many creative ideas. Moreover, men can easily get excited about something, but struggle to see it through to completion, for they are ready to move to the next bigger and better thing.

If we delve further and examine their biology, we see that in the creation of a child, when the male contributes, it is magnitudes greater than a woman's contribution, and his contribution takes a relatively short period of time.

On the other hand, what about female character traits? Once again, we can observe the physical realm. Women tend to be more emotional and spiritual and nurturing. They make up the majority in professions such as elementary education and nursing, which demands multitasking abilities, and the physical jobs they often undertake are less physically strenuous, such as tailoring, administrative

assistance, and house cleaning. If we were to examine a woman's role in the creation of a child, we see that the woman takes one of the many sparks of energy from her husband to nurture and create a child, and the time that she takes to do this is significantly longer. She takes one of the many and brings it to life before it dissipates. And because of this gift, a woman needs to be cautious not to become stifling, as they can sometimes struggle to let go of thoughts, ideas, and letting go of their children as they get older.

So let's remember that we're discussing about character traits. So male character traits are typically associated with physicality and the capacity to create new ideas, whereas female character traits are more inclined towards emotions, spirituality, and the ability to receive and nurture.

Now, I know that you can all see that as women, you predominantly exhibit female character traits, although not exclusively. Similarly, you'll begin to notice that your husband mostly embodies male character traits, but he does possess a few female traits as well. His amalgamation is what makes it truly beautiful.

Considering this combination, we can observe that certain fields tend to be dominated by either women or men when individuals have the freedom to choose their own career paths. People make their own choices of what area they want to specialize in when they enter university, and I consulted the latest statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Labor for the year 2021, and I found some very intriguing figures.

If you take a look at women, women have comprised 74% of all florists, 77% of librarians, 82% of veterinarians, and 96% of child daycare workers. On the other side, men held a majority in the construction industry at 89%, leather and high tanning at 100%, farm supply wholesalers at 100%, rail transportation at 92%, and landscaping services at 90%.

So, I'm sure that you can see as you're listening or reading the trend as to what kind of professions each of us tend to take. And I hope that you can now start to see some of our differences. While we do share many similarities, there exist fundamental distinctions between us. Neither side is superior to the other. There's no one of us which is better than the other, one of us which is better than the other. And it's like comparing an orange and a carrot. You can say both are orange, and both grow from plants. They have some similarities, but they are inherently dissimilar. However, you cannot see one is better than the other. Instead, we would ask the question, well, what is needed? If you desire something with vitamin A, or something that is hearty, well, go for the carrot. If you need vitamin C, or you want something sweet, then choose the orange. However, sometimes a carrot can satisfy your sweet tooth. You can make a carrot cake. And also, you can take an orange and add it to savory dishes, such as when you season the chicken.

So just like the carrot and the orange, men and women have their respective areas of expertise, although they can share and cross boundaries at times. We are different, and we are both necessary. It is truly a beautiful thing.

Now, we can have an inkling as to why sometimes there's a lot of tension within a marriage. Sometimes, or oftentimes, we just cannot seem to be on the same page. Now, I know that some of you have questions, such as, why does it have to be this way? Why were we created so different? Those are very good questions.

Those are very good questions. Now, let me tell you a story that happened between my husband and I several years ago. We had to make a decision regarding one of our children. And as good parents, we talked long and hard about what needed to be done. We had two options, option A and option B. We knew which one we wanted, but we also knew that we were being a little bit selfish. The question really was, which was best for our son? So, we listed all the pros of each option and all the cons for each option, but we still could not figure it out.

Option A still looked really good, but was it the correct path? We were tempted to choose it, however, we were still very unsure. Then, I had the idea of focusing on the major pros for option B. What ensued was that my husband could only come up with all the negatives for option B. Well, I could only come up with the major pluses for option A. Neither of us came up with good reasons to choose option B, just some perks.

What I realized happened is that we both approached the question from very different angles. And because we did, we were able to make a decision that we both were very confident with. Yes, marriage can be difficult, but it is supposed to be. Amazing things will come out of it. One plus one does not equal two. It can equal three, or four, or eight, or maybe more.

Now, let us conclude by addressing the question we initially posed. Why is it so challenging to avoid interrupting our husbands? While talking with kindred spirits who are comfortable with multitasking, feel free to be yourself. However, it is important to recognize that our husbands often differ in this aspect. When we multitask while talking to our husband, he may feel disregarded or sidelined. Interrupting him can give the impression that he is not valued in our eyes.

Make your husband your king. Observe the positive changes that occur. I assure you, you won't regret it. And since this is generally a difficult homework to master, we will continue practicing it for the coming week. So please, we will all focus on not interrupting our husband when he is talking to us or to others. And to help out, I have published a journal on the website. You can go to themarriagemelody.com. It includes sections for recording the weekly homework, reflecting on how things went, noting both the positive aspects and the areas for improvement, and considering alternative approaches for future attempts.

I encourage you to come and visit and explore it. Until next time, take care.