

## How To Handle Differences...*before they drive you crazy*

### ➤ We have differences because:

1. of the way we were \_\_\_\_\_.
2. of our \_\_\_\_\_.
3. some of us are \_\_\_\_\_ and some of us are \_\_\_\_\_.
4. some of us are \_\_\_\_\_ people and some of use are \_\_\_\_\_ people.
5. some of us are \_\_\_\_\_ and some of us are \_\_\_\_\_.
6. some of us are \_\_\_\_\_ and some of us are \_\_\_\_\_.

Men Think Women Should:

Women Think Men Should:

7. of \_\_\_\_\_.

### ➤ How To Handle Your Differences Before They Drive You Crazy

*...Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."*

*But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common." This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.*

*And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them." And Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for.... The next day he rose and went away with them ....(Acts 10:9-23 ESV)*

*So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. (Acts 10:34-35 - ESV)*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ them.

*I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1-3)*

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (Colossians 3:12-14)*

We need to "hold up" one another in our \_\_\_\_\_.

2. See your partner's unique characteristics as \_\_\_\_\_ instead of \_\_\_\_\_.

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.... (1 Thessalonians 5:11)*

*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)*

3. Do not try to \_\_\_\_\_ your partner to be like yourself.

*Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love.... (Ephesians 5:1-2a)*

*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor (Ecclesiastes 4:9 NIV)  
"help each other succeed" -NLT*

➤ **Conclusion**

*Now that you know these things, do them, that is the path of blessing. (John 13:17LB)*

➤ **Couple Sharing**

1. Read Ephesians 4:1-6. Notice how the first step to 'living a life worthy of your calling' is to be "completely humble." Discuss how humility will help you handle your differences.

2. Which of the seven reasons for differences seem to cause you the most difficulty and why? Both answer.

3. Of the three ways to handle differences, which do you think will be the most help for you? Both answer.

4. Hold hands and pray together - *"Lord, we want to be more like you. You showed us how to be servants. We want to be your servants and servants to one another. Help us accept each other's differences, treat them as strengths and not try to remake them to be like us. Help us to truly love each other the way You love us. In Jesus name, Amen."*