



Becoming Your Spouse's Better Half: Why Differences Make a Marriage Great

Rick Johnson

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It's no secret that men and women are different. And it's no secret that they don't always get along because of these differences, even when they love each other. But having a successful marriage is not about finding the perfect person to marry. It's about loving someone in an unselfish, Christlike manner. Whatever we want out of marriage--unconditional love, forgiveness, passion--that is what we have to give to our spouse. Rick Johnson shows couples how to go beyond merely tolerating each other's differences to using those God-given differences to add spice and passion to their relationship.

Becoming Your Spouse's Better Half: Why Differences Make a Marriage Great Details

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Author : Rick Johnson

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From Reader Review Becoming Your Spouse's Better Half: Why Differences Make a Marriage Great for online ebook

Linda Trionfo says

Good book over all, He talks to women in the first half explaining why men do the things they do and to women in the 2nd half. I read the whole thing and thought in general he was correct on most fronts. Every women and man is different so you pick and choose what would help your marriage. It made me see why Kenny needs food all the time and how he views it. It helped me understand men and the whole sex thing, why they need it and that they also feel loved from it, not just a physical fulfillment. He is a Christian man and respectful and very funny. Easy read and both husband and wife would enjoy it.

Michelle says

I really enjoyed this one. It's written from a Christian perspective; half of the book is aimed at explaining men to their wives, and half at explaining women to their husbands so we can cherish one another better. I learned a lot! I do think the half of the book explaining men is the stronger half--a couple of the women's chapters were a bit thin. :-) No surprise, since the author is a man who confesses to being flummoxed by women often enough. I guess I give him credit for a credible effort despite his being clearly perplexed by us. LOL Still, if couples paid more attention to what the author does explain, we'd probably all have happier marriages.

Lucille Zimmerman says

I just finished reading Becoming Your Spouse's Better Half: Why Differences Make a Marriage Great.

Rick spends seven chapters describing how man think and why they behave the way they do. Then he spends seven chapters talking about women and their unique thoughts and behaviors.

I'm a counselor and I've been married for 26 years, so much of this book confirmed what I knew. However, there were parts that were new and interesting. Mostly what I loved about the book was Rick's lighthearted writing and his clear examples.

Johnson expresses an important point about marriage: It's not about finding the perfect person. It's about loving the imperfect person in an unselfish manner.

There were a few parts in the book that felt cliché: Women wanting to shop, and women not liking sex as much as men. (Maybe I assumed he was saying they don't like sex as much, when in actuality he may have been saying women arrive at this place in a very different way than men do.) Other than these two examples, I felt like the book did a good job of handling the most important topics to men and women.

One of the best features of the book is that the end of each chapter includes:

A summary of the differences between men and women
Words they might be saying in their heads

Words a spouse can say that heal

Words a spouse can say that wound

In summary, the book is helpful. It is filled with interesting facts, backed by research, and written in a fun, upbeat tone.

LaDonna Harris says

Mostly good

For the most part I really enjoyed this book. There were just two chapters I didn't like and it's probably just where I'm at in life. Humor mixed with truth and life experience.

Kelly Lamb says

I went into this book very optimistic. I read one of Dr. Laura's marriage books a few years back and really disliked it, so I was hoping this one would be different.

It was different, but not in the way I hoped. First of all, I won this book through Goodreads, but I don't exactly fit the profile of the type of person that this book was written for (which I didn't know when I entered the drawing). I'm a liberal, feminist, atheistic female who dislikes shopping and will probably never stay at home to raise my kids (not by choice but by financial necessity), and my husband is a well-adjusted male who was raised for the majority of his childhood by a single mother, cooks and does dishes, and is often more talkative than I am. Yet we are still very happily married. :) Not exactly the audience that was catered to in this book.

I was drawn in by the introduction, because I can get behind appreciating each other's differences and attempting to adjust behaviors in order to work for a more harmonious marriage. Where I got lost was in the seven "modes" and "moods". I have a very hard time generalizing people into boxes like that, especially when the generalizations made were SO very different than the way my husband and I actually are. For example, I can't imagine asking my husband if he could work fewer hours, and having him completely ignore my initial request. But according to this book, that is to be expected, and wives need to use a variety of other tactics to get through to him. Perhaps we communicate differently, but either way, this type of explanation didn't work for me.

The bottom line is: this book is about appreciating differences in order to make a marriage stronger. I get that, I like that. But I think this book can really only work effectively if the couples reading it fit into the author's generalizations about male and female behavior. My husband and I both felt that, the majority of the time, that did not include us.

Barbara M says

This was an enjoyable and informative book. It is written by a married pastor with children. He seems to have excellent insights regarding some of the basic differences between men and women and the way they communicate. At times, the book really had me laughing!

The book has a section which discusses what men need from their wives & another section outlining what wives need from their husbands. Most of his suggestions for a happy marriage boil down to good communication and looking out for the needs of each other and caring for one another. I've been married for 35 years to the same person & I have to agree with that philosophy!

The only critique I have about the book is that I often felt while reading it like he assumed most women stay home to raise their children and do not work. In today's world a lot of women are mothers who work outside of the home. I did not feel that the book sufficiently addressed the issue of women who work outside the home & are also mothers with young children.

I enjoyed his writing style and his insights.

Kendra says

I enjoyed this book by Rick Johnson. This was my first book that I have read by him and he put humor throughout the book which could have been a boring book about marriage. Though, I wish that he had more insight on the women but I did understand why he did not as he is a male. Though, reading the guys part of the book really helped me have more insight on my husband. I wish then he would have had a section about marriage all together. Also how to work it all together and have a good marriage. All in all I rate it a three star.

1411004 says

The gist: "Becoming Your Spouse's Better Half: Why Differences Make a Marriage Great" by Rick Johnson gives marital advice on how to understand your partner based on their gender norms. The book is divided into two sections, the first half explains men to women and the second half explains women to men. Johnson says having a successful marriage is not about finding the perfect person to marry. It's about loving someone in an unselfish, Christlike manner. Whatever we want out of marriage—unconditional love, forgiveness, passion—that is what we have to give to our spouse

Adolgushin says

This book is obviously about a man and a woman and how the heck in the world they can have a nice and satisfying marriage. This subject is not about the newest Web technology but about probably the oldest problem in the world since Adam and Eve, so it has been receiving a great amount of attention from thousands of authors. Still Rick Johnson managed to add some new thoughts to this, while keeping the book pretty fun and easy to read.

The book talks about both men and women, and is aimed to help us to understand and appreciate our spouses way of thinking and living. If you are a male like me and want a reminder about how cool you are supposed to be, this book might be of help. If you are having a hard time understanding your wife, it may give you inspiration on how to understand and forgive her.

Ultimately, the book is about loving unconditionally, in a Bible manner, in order to get a great relationship with your loved one.

On a particular note, I need to mention author's "bullshit-free" attitude. He seems genuine so you feel like talking to a wise old guy who just shares his knowledge in a humble manner.

I'd recommend this book for couples who are on their way to understanding each other and need some inspiration.

Linda says

Unbelievably biased and poorly written. The author does not understand women enough to write a book for both spouses. It seems like he wrote the section on wives based off of every sexist stereotype about women he could find.

Neil Geisel says

Reading a good book like this is great for the soul and it's content is making an impact in my marriage. How much better is it that my wife also read it?! This is a great marriage book for him and her. It is written by male author Rick Johnson, and after discussing it with my wife, we both agree it is spot on in much of the material. However, when he talks about some men being exceptions to the rule, some ways for us are on the exception route rather than what's stereotypically normal. It is my belief and experience, that there is a substantial percentage of men that do not conform to stereotypes or God has strategically placed certain genes in us to add spice to life. My wife and I find that sometimes she is performing the mans rule and I am acting the woman's rule, and I feel that we buck the system sometimes. These kind of attitudes and performances are not addressed or explored in this book. In fact, I have yet to read a book that goes very far in the topic of being different. A personality book comes close, because we are what God created us to be. It seems to me that men are influenced by societies mold of what men should be more than they allow God's footprint to influence them. But, then I loved the authors illustration of when he and his friend were experiencing an auto accident and while rolling around his friend cried out, "God please save me!", and his friend is an unbeliever. So Gods imprint is definitely in there and the author brings out this point well. We both enjoyed this book, but I wanted to learn more about the authors experience with guys who don't fit the mold exactly. I suppose my being a "Rascal" has something to do with it!

Alesha says

There were several points in this book with which I didn't agree; however, I thought it was a great informational book about the differences between men and women. The seven chapters that spoke to women about the different "modes" of men really were food for thought. I read several parts aloud to Josh, and he was in complete agreement. One part really spoke to me about an issue I've personally been struggling with- the author stated that men take pride in their work while we take pride in being mothers. That explains to me why working makes men feel like good dads while it makes us feel like bad moms. Overall, a good read.

Alexia says

This book is definitely worth reading. I like the authors voice and facts on how to understand men and women in marriages. He's funny. My husband really enjoyed hue book and would often read ahead of me and I'd have to catch up. It really helped me understand the male mind and how Christian men still are affected by things the same as unbelieving men. It really helped our marriage and understanding and getting to know my husband better. Our marriage is the best that it has every been in almost 5 years of marriage. We got married when I just turned 20 and I'm about to be 25 this May. This nook is really helpful and biblical. I highly recommend it and men will want to read it as we'll.

Yellow Rose says

The strengths of this book include Amazing insight into the man's mind, what the man needs and wants. The book lacks depth overall, however it is only 215 pages. It is written by a pastor and it does have occasional quotation of scripture and bible stories. However, even if you are not Christian (as I am) you can overlook this, because the topic in itself is fascinating and interesting to read about. Another point where the author lacked depth was on the subject of women. I think if his wife had offered some more insights for him the section on women would have been more informative.

I will begin the review by quoting the author on the issue of Equality. Because thanks to feminists from early on we are taught false doctrines about gender and male and female relationships. This causes divorce, because a communist egalitarian model of a marriage does not work.

"Equality in a relationship does not mean sameness-it means each person is valued for the contribution they bring to the table" (13).

Feminists tell us that to have equality we must be the same, gender bending is the way to do it, they want to feminize the males and turn women into men. This social engineering is truly sickening and books like this help expose the truth.

Contrary to feminist beliefs, a woman has so much power to influence the man. The author notes "The one person in the whole world to whom a man drops this defensive shield, if only occasionally, is his wife" (26). We hold the power over the men we love and we either make them or break them, and if women continue espousing to a feminist doctrine, they will break them entirely. Feminists tell us that we have no power, we are oppressed by our men and they do noting but use us, this is a lie to force women into the workforce so they can break up the family. If women feel that the only way they will have power is by getting careers and putting careers first then their marriages and families, society will begin to diminish. As it is diminishing now, society is being destroyed by feminists. A stable family is at the core of stable society, so we must have stable families to have stable and crime free societies.

The author includes two sections a section on men and a section for women. Although the section for men I believe is better developed (since the author is a man he knows more what men are about), the section on women is lacking. And both sections combined lack depth overall, I kept wanting for more after reading this book, not to mention that it took me only few hours to read the whole thing.

The author admits that men view women as objects. Now ladies do not get offended he explains how different men think therefore they see women like that. However, it is not that bad to be an object. Because a man who knows that you are his "object" per se, will love and cherish you more. He will take care of you and protect you. The author talks about the male need for sex, and he encourages men to give women romance

and seduction before sex. Which makes sense because both are happy at the bargain. In addition, it does not mean that your man loves you less because he wants sex. Sex for men is like food, for women. The author also notes that the fulfillment of the man's sexual need leads to a happy and more confident man. Because we already know that, a woman can either make or break her husband. By fulfilling his needs he will love, you more and he will feel more confident to slay the dragons outside the "castle" because he knows his woman is there for him. It is quite beautiful if you think about it. In addition, in marriages where a woman stays home it is an even bigger boost. A man will be proud of himself to be the breadwinner and he will be the hero in her eyes.

Another issue with the book was that the author did not specifically talk about such families where a woman stays home. He talked about double earner families as well and he said that a woman still does most of the housework (and that the husband should give her a break for a day or so, so she doesn't get tired about doing chores). Okay I am not a believer in double earner families. However IF a family is double earner, I think the household chores need to be 50/50 it is highly disturbing and horrible to expect of a wife to do work outside of the home and do all of the chores plus childcare. Besides it is the true man's responsibility to man up and be the breadwinner knight for his princess wife.

He also points out current societal problems; he says, "Boys raised by the model of a woman being the only provider in their lives often do not develop this strong sense of duty to provide for their families." (46). This is so true and pathetic at the same time, society has come to such a standstill where a man is no longer expected to provide and he feels no shame in not being able to provide. When it comes to the children of single mothers, we see crime involvement in drugs, not being able to form families and meaningful relationships. These boys shun responsibilities, while the girls continue the cycle of getting pregnant out of wedlock and becoming welfare queens.

Another good quote from the book he says "A man works as a gift to himself and an offering to his wife. Providing for her is one way to honor her and tell her he loves her" (51). Indeed ladies do not let the feminists tell you that if a man wants you to stay home that he is somehow enslaving you or disrespecting you. In fact if a man wants you to stay home it is a sign of the deep love he has for you, and you should savor every bit of that love.

A very important duty for a husband is his role as a protector. He is the gatekeeper he must decide who enters the home and who does not. In addition, the author is very right to assume that even the most well trained woman would still be beaten down and abused by a strange man intent to harm her. The author makes a correct assumption that men seek out weak women (single mothers with children) as their prey, because they are easier to take advantage of. He also talks about protecting the wife emotionally and psychologically, by guarding her virtue, by exerting leadership over their families. This is very important. And leadership not in a sense that feminists like to portray but in a sense that he nurtures and protects with love and care while at the same time he is the leader and the king of the home and family. As the author says leadership must be "nurturing and uplifting" (122).

When it comes to his section on women, it is less developed and I was disappointed by his insight. I will overview the good and the bad that I think he makes a point of. He says women need to feel cherished and loved, which is true. In addition, if a woman espouses a feminist doctrine that she is the same as a man. That woman will not feel cherished nor will she feel loved. Because she will be denying her femininity and by doing that, she misses out on the love she could have, if she just stopped trying to be a man (a feminist).

He talks about the importance of security for women, the importance of a comfortable home. He talks about the toils of PMS and how it affects women, and how men should understand that. I thought that was really sweet of him. However, overall the section does not cover the many facets of being female in depth that is why I was quite disappointed with the section. A problem I had on his belief that women talk more than men, that they love to chat and that their Girlfriends are the best things ever. Sorry that is a stereotype. Personally

not all women are chatterboxes, and nor do they talk more than men. A study has been done where they actually found out that on average men and women say the same amount of words per day. So women do not talk more than men on average. Moreover, not all women have many girlfriends.

Overall, the strength of the book lies in his insight into the man's mind. There are problems with the book that I have noted above. In addition, after reading this I felt like I wanted more information. Once again, this is a Christian book; I read this because it is hard to find books like this that are anti-feminist and secular at the same time. However, the occasional verse and bible story is not a problem at all for me. I highly recommend this book for couples and for husbands and wives to be.

Dewi says

This book did enlighten me about knowing who is a man. xixixi..
It tells reader 7 things we should know as a woman about who a man is.
and 7 things man should know about woman.
It will help reader to become a good spouse's better half.
