

Who's Better – Men or Women?

by Marilyn Reeves

The “Doctor Oz Show” seems to put out a lot of conflicting and misleading information. Recently featured were side-by-side scans of a male and female brain, parts of which lit up when actively engaged in pondering a given question. Various areas of the woman’s brain lit up, but only the cerebral cortex showed signs of activity in the male counterpart. Dr. Oz’s conclusion: “Women are smarter than men.”

Being a woman, I should have been delighted by that profound revelation, but instead my thought was: Here we go again! Just another round in the battle of the sexes. His demonstration proved nothing other than that men and women process thought differently.

Women’s brains appear to be better geared toward multi-tasking. They have to be. A woman has a sort of mental umbilical cord, if you will, that is attached to her children – especially very young children. She may be closing a business deal over the phone with one hand and frying an egg with the other, but she remains aware of where her toddler is and what he is doing at all times.

Guys, on the other hand, tend to focus more intently on one thing at a time. That’s why it’s not a particularly good idea for Daddy to take 2-year-old Johnny to the baseball game. Dad has been known to drop little Johnny while making a grab for that fly ball! Or to leave him in the carseat while he goes to the office, completely forgetting that he was supposed to have dropped him off at the sitter’s.

Does that mean that Dad is somewhat lacking in intelligence? Far from it! He may be in there designing a bridge that will span from L.A. to Honolulu, or working on the newest gadget that will put the Smart Phone to shame. Most of the sophisticated advances of civilization were designed by men. Over 90% of all the contestants who win on *Jeopardy!* are men. Men are smart! But, then again, so are women. We’re just smart in different ways, and about different things.

There are always exceptions to the rule, of course. I sometimes think that there are more differences *within* the sexes than there are *between* the sexes. The most outstanding clothing designers, hair dressers, and interior decorators are often men. And there are a few women who beat out the men when it comes to mathematical genius and physical prowess. But these are the exceptions. For the most part, women tend to excel at organization, communication, intuition, multi-tasking and child care. And we’re not afraid to stop and ask for directions! Men tend to excel at mechanics, mathematics, structural design, musical composition, factual retention, and athletics.

So, who’s better – men or women? Men are amazing! But, so are women. Let’s just call it a draw and learn to appreciate one another.