

15 Intriguing Thoughts About Men, Women and Relationships

by

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for

**Midland Park High School's 50th Reunion
September 10, 2011**

- We learned in Ron Haas' class that "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing." Nevertheless, here's just a little knowledge...enjoy the danger!
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- The Father's Catch-22: Traditional dads learn to love the family by being away from the love of the family. Traditional moms love the family by loving the family. Women provided an emotional womb akin to love; men provided a financial womb that took him away from his purpose-- loving and supporting the family--in order to achieve his purpose--loving and supporting the family. Men loved the family by being *disconnected*; women loved the family by being *connected*. Women's role has the love advantage.
- Today in middle class intact families, when children are born, women have three options: work full-time; children full-time; some combination of both. Men also have "three options": Work full-time; work full-time; work full-time. In this way, men today are about where women were when we graduated. About a half a century behind women.
- The choice of our marriage partner is the single most important statement we make as to our values. If we are a spontaneous artist, we may choose a source of stability; if we

are an engineer, we may marry a spontaneous artist. The engineer will criticize the artist for being irresponsible; the artist will criticize the engineer for being too stiff. Before they criticize each other, both need to remember they chose each other because they valued what the other provided that they needed.

- Men's weakness is their façade of strength; women's strength can be their façade of weakness--or their *courage* to *acknowledge* their weakness. In this way also our sons are behind our daughters.
- When *we* entered high school, a woman's biology was a woman's destiny. Not good. For our sons or grandsons today a woman's biology is a man's destiny. Here's why. If he has sex with a woman, says she's on birth control, but isn't, and becomes pregnant, she has four options: inform him; don't inform him; abort; or sue for support. Our sons can agree, or agree. Or go to prison for non-payment of support. Today, when our son or grandson puts his penis in a woman's body, he puts his life in her hands. Her biology has become his destiny.
- When I did the research for a book called *Why Men Earn More*, I discovered that married women who work outside the home full time earn more than their counterpart males; researching another book, I learned that children raised predominantly by dads do better than children raised predominantly by moms. One reason for both findings: people who deviate from roles are highly-motivated; a reason children do so well when dads are the primary raiser of children: moms stay involved, and dads want mom to stay involved.

- The best intent of a criticizer is to make the relationship better – to increase intimacy. But almost everyone who hears any request for any change in attitude or behavior wants to “kill” the criticizer. Which doesn’t increase intimacy.
- When we graduated a half-century ago neither sex had rights; both sexes had responsibilities. Women were expected to row on the right side of the family boat--raise children; men on the left side – raise money. The women’s movement helped women row on both sides of the family boat; men still row only on the left (raise money). The problem is, when women exercise their skills to row on the left, and men can only row on the left, the boat goes in circles. Women today are about a half-century ahead of men developmentally.
- Men learn to define power as feeling obligated to earn money someone else spends while we die sooner. Real power, though, is best defined as “control over one’s own life.”
- If men earned more in the workplace for the *same* work, who would ever hire a man?
- Both sexes are biologically programmed to fall in love with the members of the opposite sex who are the *least* capable of loving. Men fall in love with women who are young and therefore less mature in their relationship skills, and beautiful, which usually means men compete to take care of them; women fall in love with men who are successful without realizing that many of the qualities it takes to be successful at work are inversely related to what it takes to be successful in love.
- Falling in love is biologically *natural*; sustaining love is biologically *un-natural*. Sustaining love requires a learned

discipline. The discipline of love. The discipline of understanding our partner. (I've never heard someone say "I want a divorce – my partner understands me.")

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- The Achilles' Heel of humans is our inability to handle personal criticism—especially when given by a loved one-- especially when given badly. (Of course, all criticism feels like it is given badly.) The discipline of love starts with the discipline of knowing how to emotionally associate being criticized with being loved; that's the best way to make our partner feel safe sharing her or his feelings.
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- The discipline continues with the art and discipline of appreciating each other. For example, on the discipline of appreciation: few couples discipline themselves to create a time for appreciation even once a week.
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- The discipline of love is the most important discipline that we can learn. The location of the school in which you can learn it is: NOWHERE.

What are your thoughts about these thoughts?

If you'd like more depth on these issues, see:

www.warrenfarrell.com, or

http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Warren_Farrell. For bio, see

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warren_Farrell

