

GENDER GAPS (1)

All Souls Radio

Bob: Good morning, all you people out there in the good old USA. We are coming to you live from our studio here in beautiful Jack Valley. At the mike for this edition of “Gender Gaps”, the personal help show for struggling couples, is yours truly, Bob Wilson. My charming co-host is, of course, Msssssss. Linda Morgan.

Linda: Thank you, Bob. I’m stunned that you consider me charming.

Bob: Well, what can I say? I’m just a magnanimous guy.

Linda: Been reading the dictionary again, Bob?

Bob: Yes, Linda, frankly, I have. I find it both enlightening and intellectually stimulating ... Anyway, here at All Souls Radio, we do whatever we can to help you with your personal problems.

Sometimes we give the theological background for our advice and sometimes we just call ‘em like we see ‘em.

Linda: That’s right, Bob, and we do our best to cover things from all angles. It’s a known fact that in the human brain the left side and the right side handle problems differently. Since the left side is predominantly male oriented, Bob will always give you the view from the left. That means I will always be ... right.

Bob: Okay, Linda, before we get rolling here, I’d like to thank our sponsors for today’s show, St. John Lutheran Church in Cedar Crossing and St. Peter Lutheran Church in Profitville. Formalities done, let’s get right to our first caller, Don from Minneapolis. What can we do for you, Don?

Don: Yeah, Bob. My wife and I argue constantly. She says I spend too much time on my computer. Then she ends up calling me stupid. Bob, I have a doctorate in Chemical Engineering. I set up my own computer system and am proficient at designing programs for it. I don’t think I’m stupid. How

is it I have all this knowledge and ability and yet I can't seem to understand my wife?

Bob: Don, first off, you need to tell your wife you love her, even when she calls you stupid. Now, let me ask you something. I know you said you set up your own computer system, but when you came home with your computer components, was there a basic instruction manual in the box?

Don: Yes.

Bob: Okay, let me ask you another question, Don. When you got married, did they give you an instruction manual on women?

Don: Uh, no, Bob.

Bob: There you go, buddy.

Don: Uh, thanks, Bob. I think.

Linda: Our next caller is Molly, from the Big Apple. This is Linda, go ahead, Molly.

Molly: Hello, Linda?

Linda: Yes, Molly, you're on the air. How can we help you?

Molly: Linda, every time my husband and I have a discussion he's always wrong. My question is, "If my husband was all alone in the middle of the desert and if there was nobody who could hear him when he says something, is he still wrong?"

Bob: Whoa, Linda. That's right up your alley.

Linda: Well, Molly, honey, you and I both know what the answer is, but to be fair, we have to put it in terms that a male can understand. Here's what you do, Molly. Give him an example involving football. Let's say the season is almost over and since you're from New York, we'll use the Giants as the example. Their record is, oh, let's be generous, 1 win and 13 losses. The owner moves the

entire team out to the desert to play their last few games. Ask your husband what the possibility would be of the Giants winning the Super Bowl.

Molly: But that's impossible, Linda. They could never win the Super Bowl. Even I know that. It's the same team with the same players, and there are only two games to play. Playing in the desert will not make any difference. It's just mathematically impossible.

Linda: Exactly. When your husband says that, point out the similarities to his own situation and he will convict himself.

Bob: You have no mercy, do you, Linda?

Molly: Thanks, Linda. I don't care what Bob says about you, you're the winner of the Super Bowl to me.

Linda: Let me know how it goes, Molly.

Bob: Okay, our next caller is Amy, from Des Moines, Iow-way. This is Bob, Amy. You're on the air.

Amy: Yes, Linda?

Linda: Go ahead, Amy.

Amy: I don't know what's wrong with me. Every time I get involved with a man; I have all kinds of problems.

Linda: Actually, Amy, that is a very common situation. I can almost guarantee you it is not you. It's almost always the man.

Bob: Wait a minute, Linda. Can you cite anything to back that up?

Linda: Don't pay any attention to him, Amy. It is a known fact that most women's problems begin with men. It's obvious that Bob, like so many of his kind, is blind to the basic example given to us

in the English language. So, for him, I will give you four examples of problems that start with men— Menopause, Mental Illness, Menstrual Cramps, and Mental Breakdown.

Bob: You know, Linda, I've been on the air with you for over five years and that leaves me speechless.

Amy: Thanks so much, Linda. You're a treasure.

Linda: You're welcome, Amy.

Bob: Jim is from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. This is Bob, Jim. I'm going to have a hard time following that last gem of advice from the "Treasure", but I'll give it a try. What's up, brother?

Jim: Yeah, Bob, do you have any tips for a man who can't ever seem to say the right thing to women? Every time I open my mouth, it's like I'm taking my life in my own hands.

Bob: Give me an example, buddy.

Jim: Last night when we were getting ready to go out to dinner, I asked my wife a simple question. I said, “Is that what you’re wearing?” She got all bent out of shape.

Bob: Okay, Jim. There are two things you need to do. First, go back and read the Book of Proverbs. It is a virtual fountain of knowledge about human relationships. Second, you need to build yourself a stock of alternative approaches. I don’t even remember where I heard these, but they certainly contain words of practical importance. In the case that you cited, a safer remark would have been, “Gee, you look good in brown” or whatever color she was wearing. The safest thing to say would have been, “Wow, look at you!” And the ultimate in safety would have been, “Here, have some chocolate.”

Linda: You know, Bob, I’ve also been on the air with you for over five years and that is the most pathetic thing you’ve ever said.

Bob: Jim, as a follow up to your comment about her getting all bent out of shape, it's downright dangerous to say, "What are you so worked up about?" A little safer thing to say would be, "Could we be overreacting?", but the safest would be, "Here's fifty dollars." And then, of course, the ultimate would again be, "Here, have some chocolate."

Jim: Thanks, Bob. I think I've got the idea. I'll buy some chocolate tomorrow.

Bob: Yeah, Jim, I'm not sure how, but chocolate seems to affect their hormones. And don't forget about Proverbs. Somewhere in Proverbs 10, Solomon says, "Wise men lay up knowledge."

Linda: That's beyond pathetic, Bob. Why didn't you give him the rest of that verse in Proverbs?

Bob: What's that, Linda?

Linda: But the babbling of a fool brings ruin near.

Bob: Well, I see by the old clock on the wall, that our time is about up for the program today. It's amazing how time flies when you're having fun. Do you have any last comments, Linda?

Linda: You're pathetic, Bob.

Bob: There you have it, ladies and gentlemen. Thanks for tuning in to the program. If you have any positive feedback, send it to me here at the station. If you have a problem with anything from today's program, send it to Linda here at the station. So, until next time, it's pathetic Bob Wilson and Msssss. Linda Morgan hoping all your gender gaps are little ones.