

# What's the Matter?

by Bob MacDonough, E.Op. 4



One of the *Homemaker* staff members asked me to write an article about my thoughts on women. I agreed, thinking that I had a lot of ideas I could put down about the subject.

After trying to crystallize my thoughts, however, I realized that I might have a little trouble. How could I tell "What a Man Looks for in a Woman" or "What Men Want a Woman To Be," when each man's desires vary?

What I needed to find was a basic problem in male-female relationships. At the bottom of the difficulties of some of the pinmates, engaged couples, and people who are "just dating" seems to be how the man and woman can communicate and express their ideas to each other.

Men and women think differently. When women reach a decision, they have previously considered and weighed aspects such as social pressure and the lives of the people around them. A man normally thinks some of this is immaterial and tries to find the easiest and most efficient way to progress.

Men also think ahead. They project their proposed actions and imagine the consequences. They seem to have a greater facility for putting past experience into use to obtain the best solution to the present problem.

These different methods of thought lead to different methods of expression; and different methods of expression can lead to misunderstanding between couples.

Many times a woman feels that a man is attempting to beat her down when she is discussing an idea with him. In most cases, all he is trying to do is to put her explanation in terms that he can understand and appreciate.

Many women also feel that their men make unreasonable demands of them. For example, they complain that the men restrict their outside activities. When a man asks that a woman not take part in so many extra activities, he does so because he believes that her place is with him — not out gallivanting with "the girls." If she would simply sit down and explain her need for outlets, he would, no doubt, be much more understanding.

Another answer to this problem is for the woman to schedule her activities when the man is busy at something else. There is also the possibility of developing common interests and hobbies.

A frequent source of conflict is the time when a woman attempts to "get something from her man." She may try to achieve this by force or coercion. This puts her in competition with him. Men are surrounded with competition in their jobs and learn to fight it every day. A much more successful approach than "asking for a fight" would be for the woman to use her "feminine wiles," even though it may take a little longer. This way, peace is kept, and the request is usually granted.

A Frenchman once said in a sentence what my whole article tells: "Being a woman is a life-time career."

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