

## **Women Wanted An Overnight Reflection 2014**

Throughout the United States, the traditional role of marriage, meaning one husband with one wife producing 2.2 children, is no longer the norm. In fact, according to a report in the NEWS just recently, only about 20% of Americans are now living in a traditional home. Part of this evolution of familial relationships is a result of the large number of marriages that end in divorce. The implications of this reality have dramatically impacted all of society's cultural norms.

In the quiet of the night, this information rattled around in my brain and got me thinking about my various roles as a man, i.e.: Husband, Father, Grandfather, Great Grandfather, Provider, Entrepreneur, Employer, Manager, Writer, and so forth. After some time, I began to ask myself what the roles of my marital counterpart might be, for example: Wife, Mother, Employee, Employer, Manager, Shopper, Cook, Housekeeper, and so forth. (In my case, inasmuch as I am a lousy shopper, cook, and housekeeper, I really need someone else to be responsible for these tasks. However, it is very clear that it does not require a wife to do them.)

During the course of my life, gender roles have merged and blended so completely that they hardly exist any longer. There is little that might be considered gender specific about almost any role in modern society, except for those related to pregnancy and child birth.

As my mind drifted through the lifestyle changes I have observed in my 68 years, I asked myself a bit more seriously, why does a woman want a man unless she is planning on having a traditional family, and needs financial support while she is having children and pursuing a homemaking objective? Correspondingly, what does a man need from a woman? Sex and companionship is a quick answer, and certainly true enough, but for sure, sex is readily available almost anywhere at any time and certainly does not require a marriage contract, or even a long-term relationship. In theory, and sometimes in practice, two incomes and a division of household labor, allows life to proceed more smoothly. However, just as often, that merger of incomes and responsibilities ends in conflict, so economics aside, the questions remain.

In my case, as an older man whose childbearing wife has passed, and whose children are raised, and well on their way in life, why is there a continually strong desire to be married? Is it cultural, is it financial, is it an emotional requirement of my subliminal mind? What? Why does the almost automatic coupling of men and

women take place, even at my age, especially considering the likely results statistically, and the dramatic implications thereof? The answer that keeps presenting itself to me is simply that most of us want agreeable companionship. We don't want to be alone. We want to be with someone familiar, someone we trust, that we care for, and from whom we know pretty much what to expect. Does it take a marriage to have this? No. Many relationships are achieving this objective outside the governmental contract we call marriage.

Admittedly, all these mental musings are not a revelation to much of anyone. Basically, we all know this, or at least we intuit that it is so. Nevertheless, the majority of us will still couple up, and when we do, marriage is the likely result. So, dropping the philosophical questions, I've decided to get down to the business of attempting to understand my personal needs (okay maybe they are wants).

So, as I began to outline what I specifically desired in a woman, to my surprise I realized I do not need a woman. I need more than one. This has nothing to do with seeking multiple sexual partners. My logic screams that this kind of activity will only lead to an empty end. However, what I am recognizing with greater depth of efficacy, is that rarely does everything one wants, come in a single package, and that most of what I want in a woman is better contracted for than expected of my partner.

What am I referring to? Well, I have a small business, and I have wanted my wife to be a part of it, but there is no reason this needs to be so. I have a housekeeper, and I prefer my housekeeper be a woman. I want a regular massage therapist, and I really want this person be a woman. I would like to have a cook, shopper, and someone to basically look after me. It doesn't need to be a wife, but in my case, it must be a woman. I want sex, and I am not gay, so a woman it must be. And, as much as anything else in the world, I want loving companionship, which in my mind demands a woman. Male friendship is an important part of my life, but a female companion is better by a long shot. I want a business manager, which I also prefer is a woman, and I want a sales person to promote by charter and excursion business, and in my experience, women are simply better at this than men. The list goes on. So, where does the wife fit, and where does it make more sense to buy the service?

Traditionally, or at least when I was growing up, a woman endeavored to function in all the roles her man wanted her too. That time has long passed. So what is it that makes a wife such a valuable commodity at my age? Perhaps it's someone to grow old with, someone to care for that also cares for me, someone who is more interested in my welfare than her own (provided I am of the same mindset), someone to spend time with that really wants to spend time with me. And, I want

a woman to talk with, to play with, to hug, touch, and fool around with, someone to cry and commiserate with, someone to be joyful with, to dine with, to explore with, to travel with, to love. I suppose, I can buy everything else, but as the song goes, "you can't buy me love."