

“You’ve Got Personality”

Text: Job 10:8 and selected

November 16, 2008

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Oakland, California

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This morning we continue our series I’m calling “You Are Shaped for Significance.” Our key verse has been Job 10:8, “*God’s hands formed and shaped me.*” Isaiah 64: 8 says, “*Yet, O Lord, You are our Father. We are the clay, You are the Potter; we are all the work of Your Hand.*” He made you, *you*, for a purpose. We’re talking about five different aspects of that shape – SHAPE.

- God has given you [S] Spiritual gifts.
- God has given you a basic [H] heart – what do I love to do, motivations.
- God has given you natural [A] Abilities.
- God has given you a [P] Personality.
- God has given you [E] Experiences.

These five things – your Spiritual gifts, your Heart, your Abilities, your Personality, and your Experiences – all combine to shape you and make you unique. Today we want to work on the fourth of these qualities – your personality.

PRAY!

Let’s start off by looking at a personality in the Bible:

- Read Luke 19:1-10. What can you say about the Zacchaeus’ personality?

What is a personality? Personality refers to the way people think, the way people feel, the way people act.

- Part of your personality comes from hereditary factors – you inherited it; part of it comes from the environment; part of it is your choice.
- You are a complex combination of many, many different traits. Scientists say that up to 18,000 different character traits have been identified. You’re a combination of those.
- Somebody wrote, “I was watching Oprah. She had a guest who had 79 different personalities. I thought that was wild, because I work with people who don’t even have one.”

Your personality influences every area of your life. It influences every decision you make,

- how you deal with change or don’t deal with it,
- how you solve problems,
- what makes you happy/sad,
- what you think is funny and what you don’t think is funny at all,
- says a lot about the kind of work you should be in, the kind of person you should marry, the kind of ministry God wants you to have serving Him. Every area.

- Your personality influences how you relate to God. Some people relate to God in a quiet, meditative, contemplative kind of way. Some people relate to God in a very emotional, loud kind of way. We're just different!
- God made us with a variety of personalities because God loves differences. Every one of us thinks differently, feels differently, reacts differently, and responds to life differently.
- Because of your personality and these factors God has put in you, you are very unique.

There are lots of different ways you could classify personality. 2000 years ago a guy named Hippocrates thought up one classification still popular today that puts everyone in one of four different categories. Sanguine, Choleric, Phlegmatic, Melancholy. Instead of boring you with an explanation of these, I've cliff-noted them in your message notes. After the service try to identify the temperament you have and then that of your spouse, family members, those you work with, or friends. Key: there is no right or wrong temperament. There is no right or wrong personality in God's book. God has given you the personality you have and He did it for a purpose. He did it intentionally.

Let me give you three factors on how to increase your personal skills with people. Eighty percent of the people who fail in a job do so not because of a lack of ability but because they don't know how to get along with other people. Your success in life is far more dependent upon your ability to get along with other people than dependent on your intellect -- far more. The number one thing employers' value in an employee is the ability to get along with others. Interpersonal skills are a personality issue.

Three keys on how to get along better with others.

1. Be aware of personality differences.

- A. Proverbs 19:11, "*A man's wisdom gives him patience.*" The more you understand how people act and react, the more patient you are with them. God wants you not only to understand your personality but He wants you to understand the personalities of the people around you. If you're not aware of why the people act the way they do you'll misjudge them, you'll misunderstand them, you'll become impatient with them and you'll be living in constant conflict with the people around you because they are different.
- B. For those who are married, you probably married your opposite. I think that is proof of God's sense of humor. When I look at God putting Margaret and me together I think, "He's such a prankster!"
 - Chances are if one of you is extroverted, the other is introverted.
 - If one of you likes variety, the other likes routine.
 - If one of you is structured, the other is unstructured.
 - If one of you reveals their emotions, the other tends to conceal their emotions. God just made us that way.
- C. Awareness is not only key in your marriage and relating to people, it's a key foundation on being a good parent, being aware of the basic personality bent of our children. Genesis 25:27, "*Esau loved the outdoors, but Jacob was a quiet man who stayed at home.*" These are twins. They were as opposite

as night and day and they really didn't get along. If you had been their dad, Isaac, how would it have been if you had tried to force Esau to stay at home more and forced Jacob to go out for wrestling? The point is to be careful not to destroy your child by trying to mold them into some preconceived pattern. Find their bent and build on the strength of it.

2. Accept personality differences.

A. The Bible says a lot about this. Romans 15:7, *"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you..."* When you look at the twelve disciples that Jesus chose, they were as opposite as night and day.

- John was a very meditative, thoughtful type of person. Peter was Mr. Impulsive, Mr. Energy, Mr. Foot-in-Mouth. They had differences.
- Nathaniel had an easy time believing. Thomas had a difficult time believing.
- Simon was a Zealot, a political activist of the day. Matthew was a Roman tax collector.

They wouldn't have gotten along in any social setting. God uses ordinary people and there isn't any one type of personality that God uses. He uses every type of personality. We need to accept our differences.

B. *"Accept others just as Christ accept you."* I have discovered that people who look up to God, rarely look down on people. If you look up to God, you don't look down on people because you realize that He made them all. What does it mean to accept one another? What does it mean to accept your husband/wife/boyfriend/girlfriend/boss/whomever? It means to realize that differences are not a matter of right or wrong. They're not a matter of good or bad. They're just different. So we accept each other because God loves variety. Just look around. God loves differences.

3. Appreciate personality differences

A. You value people's uniqueness. You see God's wisdom in making us all different. You're grateful that we're not all like. Can you imagine what a boring place the world would be if we were all alike? God loves diversity and we need it for balance. We need not only to accept our differences but to appreciate them. Value them. It takes all kinds of people for a balanced home, a balanced church, a balanced community, a balanced world.

B. 1 Corinthians 12:27, Paul, writing about spiritual gifts writes, *"All of you together are the one body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it."* One body, many parts and all are necessary. All personalities are necessary. If two people agree about everything, one of them isn't necessary. When you eat, you eat with a knife and a fork not two knives, not two forks. If you learn not only to be aware and accept but also to appreciate the differences of the people around you it will not only make your life a whole lot easier but you'll become like Jesus Christ because Jesus Christ made all personalities. And He accepts them. He appreciates them. To be Christlike means to see the value in each of the differences God's created in people.

C. 1 Peter 2:17 *“Show proper respect to everyone...”* That’s what God commands you to do. Appreciate. How do I have profound respect for somebody with negative characteristics? Negative qualities? You need to look behind it and see that many times a negative character trait, a negative personality problem is often a positive characteristic being misused.

- For instance, the person who is hyper-critical may have the positive characteristic of discernment, they’re just misusing it.
- Somebody who is bossy all the time is misusing the positive characteristic of responsibility.
- Somebody who is impulsive all the time is misusing the positive characteristic of flexibility.

Look behind the negative and see what is being misused. It just needs to be channeled.

D. If there is anyone here today that doesn’t feel appreciated listen to this: Jesus Christ appreciates you. He accepts you. He values you. He loves you. He died for you. If you’ll give your life to Him, He will help you develop the personality He gave you to its greatest potential. If you haven’t done that, do so. For those of you who are believers, God expects you, as He expects me, to obey 1 Peter 2:17 *“Show proper respect to everyone...”* By appreciating others only then can you share God’s greatest gift of Jesus Christ with people.

Let me close by asking you two questions:

1. What kind of personalities might God bring into my life in order to give me balance?
2. What does my personality indicate about the type of job and ministry God wants me to have?

PRAY!

- Personality
- Aware of others
- Accept others
- Appreciate others