

April 18, 2010

My Personality

Genesis 25:21-34; 33:1,4,10

Goals for today:

1. To understand that it is God that has made each person with a unique personality
2. To recognize that God uses different personalities in ministry
3. To understand the important of celebrating, rather than criticizing, the differences

Follow the leader:

If you were going on vacation, which behavior would you tend to exhibit?

- A. We'll leave sometime tomorrow between sunrise and sunset
- B. We'll leave at 8 am sharp, with or without you

- A. We'll stop whenever you need to
- B. Go now—we're not stopping until we get there

- A. We'll find a place to stay when we arrive
- B. I've booked a place 11 months ago by contacting the Chamber of Commerce

- A. I know there are lots of sights to see, but we will focus on relaxing
- B. Here's the schedule for each day of the trip, memorize it. We can't waste a moment.

- A. I think we'll go to a secluded beach to be alone and relax
- B. We're going to the most popular beach, where we can find all the activities and excitement

What is a personality? It is seen in the way we think, feel, and act. We are complex. Our personality affects how we solve problems, respond to change, the kind of work we enjoy, how we resolve conflict, how we relate to God, and how we get along with other people.

There are many different types of ways to categorize personalities. Myers-Briggs, etc. If you're taking the Dave Ramsey course, he utilizes one that compares us to animals.

Lion—Dominant. takes charge, likes power, bold, bottom line, can hurt feelings, can turn people off, overlooks details.

Otter—Influencing. Good talkers, outgoing, entertains others, impulsive, can waste time, won't be quiet, loses sight of the task at hand, needs to make decisions in a group

Golden Retriever—Stable. Steady, loyal, calm, understanding, slow to act, low profile, can seem unenthusiastic

Beaver—Compliant. Loves detail, very logical, factual, can seem rigid, resistant to change, too serious.

Which one of these categories is most like you? Why?

How do you react to each of these traits? Mark 1 to 10, 10 being high.

__outgoing	__thinker	__feelings important
__reserved	__cooperative	__competitive
__controlled	__expressive	__like routine
__like variety	__in charge	__like the pack

1. 25:21. Have you ever made a prayer request on behalf of someone else? How did God answer?
2. vs. 22. When have you asked God why something was happening to you? What response did you get?
3. vs. 23-27. How can brothers be so different from each other? What unique qualities and interests has God given you?
4. vs. 29-34. Have you ever *despised* one of God's gifts to you? Why or why not? Have you ever given small or little regard to God's gifts? Why?
5. 33:1. Is there someone with whom you need to reconcile? Is the conflict a result of your differences in personality? How do you find wisdom to begin the process of reconciliation?
Rom 12:18.
6. vs. 4. How do you respond to people who have harmed you? How was Esau able to embrace Jacob?
7. vs. 10. How is reconciling with someone like *seeing the face of God*?

If you understand the personality of another person, it is made easier to interact with them. If you know what *drives* a person, you can know how to work alongside them.

Conflict can arise easily between persons with different personalities. Why?

Your personality is one factor to consider when choosing a place to serve in the Kingdom. You would not expect an introverted person to thrive as your church's greeter!

Since we are made differently, what is wrong with showing the attitude, "That's just the way I am... get over it!" **Philippians 2:3-4.**

What is the greatest strength of YOUR personality? Name 3 ministries that would benefit from this strength.

Next week we will discuss "What are your special talents?"