

Equipped To Serve, You've Got Personality

October 8, 2017

Psalm 139:13-16 and Proverbs 22:6

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. **Psalm 139:14**

Train up a child in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent], and when he is old he will not depart from it. **Proverbs 22:6 (AMP)**

“BENT”- an individual tendency, disposition or inclination.

“You will not be able to redesign the basic personality with which your child was born. Some characteristics are genetically programmed, and they will always be there ... My advice to you is to accept, appreciate and cultivate the personality with which your ... child was born”. ~ **James Dobson**

“Spend some time learning about spiritual gifts, and how traits like shyness and/ or bossiness may actually be a trait of their God-given gifts. Find out what they enjoy, what comes naturally to them, and what is difficult. Watch how they react to the situations in life, what motivates them, what scares them, what shuts them down. Honor your child's personality. Be very careful not to treat your children like they were made in a factory; all the same. Ask God to open your eyes to the subtle but very important traits that make up your child. Ask Him to show you *His* vision for your child. Ask Him to teach you how to train your children in the way they should go, in keeping with their individual gifts and natural bents. When we get to know our children and then train them in such a way that we allow them to find success within who they were created to be, they will not have to depart from it’.

~ **Beth Cranford**

- **Personality Discovery** - discover personality style based on the DISC model.
- **Learning Spiritual Gifts** - discover spiritual gifts from a scripture-based, 16-gift model.
- **Abilities Awareness** - discover the most effective environment for them to comfortably serve.
- **Connecting Passion with Ministry** - identify passions for ministries and people, and discover how to best demonstrate that passion.
- **Experiences of Life** - explore the effects of past experiences and how they play a vital role in finding a place of service.

John Trent and Gary Smalley wrote a book in 1990 entitled *The Two Sides of Love: THE LION, OTTER, BEAVER AND GOLDEN RETRIEVER* - The normal day-today personality bent. When called upon to act in other capacities, due to job responsibilities we find ourselves stressed.

Lion - Illustration: Paul

Characteristics:

- Takes charge naturally, born to be a leader
- Desires above all to be competent and get results
- Daring, unafraid of new situations
- Feels natural to them to tell others what to do
- Welcomes a challenge
- Firm and serious about what is expected
- Prefers things to be done the RIGHT way
- Goal oriented
- Energized by people
- Makes decisions quickly
- Typically need to process through goal setting

Strong, Overbearing, Aggressive, Intimidating, Leader, Opinionated, In Charge Bossy, Assertive, Pushy, Goal oriented

May ask: Why aren't you more assertive? Why aren't you more demanding? Why don't you take charge? Why are you so irresponsible? Most prone to burn out others.

Otter - Illustration: Peter

Characteristics:

- Life of the party, without effort
- Desires above all to be liked by ALL
- Flexible and very aware of others, loves a crowd
- Feels natural to perform
- Optimistic, sees the good in everything/everyone
- Talks A LOT, often exaggerating the facts
- Prefers things to be FUN
- People oriented
- Energized by people
- Impulsive decision maker
- Typically, need to process by talking

Lighthearted, Goofs off, Entertaining, Show off, Enthusiastic, Loud and showy, Talkative, Motor mouth, Optimistic, Misses area of need.

May ask: Why don't you lighten up? Why are you so quiet? Why are you so bossy? Why are you so rigid? Why are you such a perfectionist?

Beaver - Illustration: Barnabas

Characteristics:

- Dedicated and conscientious
- Desires above all to be helpful and prove their worth
- Pursues excellence naturally
- Typically neat and tidy, noticing every detail
- Innate ability to stick to a job to its completion
- High need to ask a lots of questions
- Prefers things to be done as they always have been, resists change
- Detail oriented
- Drained by people
- Agonizes over decisions, wants it to be the right one
- Typically, need to process by asking questions and then making lists

Detailed, Misses the personal, Orderly, Insensitive, Perfectionist, Leaves no room for failure, Organized, Lacks spontaneity, Follows rules, Legalistic.

Golden Retriever - Illustration: Moses

Characteristics:

- Very stable and predictable
- Desires above all to move slowly and be sure of things
- Systematic, level-headed and tenacious
- Feels natural to help others and be empathetic toward them
- Loyal / faithful to family and friends
- Listens carefully to others
- Prefers things to be peaceful, doesn't like anyone to argue
- Peace oriented (Everybody stay calm!)
- Drained by people
- Procrastinates in decision making
- Typically, needs to process by thinking it through alone

Warm, Fails to confront, Relational, Easily hurt, Loyal, Does not demand excellence, Peacemaker, Allows expectations to go unmet, Good listener, Overly tolerant, Cannot handle rejection, wants to be liked; Most prone to burn out.

Our personality is not a license for rudeness.

1) We are all shaped differently.

2) We all are to work together and enjoy, celebrate and work through differences.

3) This is all to be for God's glory.

Prayer Focus:

- **PLACE**
- **How does God want to use my personality in His CHURCH?**
- **Celebrate the differences in personalities and learn to work with them.**