

# Discipleship

24/7

## Session 7 Personality

### 1. Personality Defined:

- Those qualities that distinguish an individual as a person.
- Personality is how God has made us in *relation* to ourselves and to others. Our personality signals the appropriateness of a ministry by how it fits who we are.

### 2. Biblical example of personality shaping a disciple's serving:

Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:24-26)

The phrase fervent in the spirit means literally "to boil in the spirit" and has the effect of "bubbling over with enthusiasm". Apollos didn't know much about Jesus but what he knew, he was excited about.

### 3. What's Your Personality

Following are four lists of adjectives. Circle all of the ones that describe you and tally your score below each box.

#### BOX 1:

Takes charge  
Self-reliant  
Assertive  
Competitive  
Enjoys challenges  
Decision-maker  
Goal-driven  
Enterprising  
Determined  
Firm  
Bold  
Purposeful  
Leader  
Adventurous  
"Let's do it now!"

SCORE:  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### BOX 2:

Takes risks  
Visionary  
Motivator  
Very verbal  
Avoids details  
Enjoys change  
Group oriented  
Fun loving  
Creative  
Energetic  
Promoter  
Likes variety  
Mixes easily  
Optimistic  
"Trust me. It will work out."

SCORE:  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### BOX 3:

Loyal  
Non-demanding  
Good listener  
Avoids conflict  
Enjoys routine  
Dislikes change  
Deep relationships  
Nurturing  
Even keel  
Tolerant  
Thoughtful  
Adaptable  
Sympathetic  
Patient  
"Let's keep things the way they are."

SCORE:  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### BOX 4:

Deliberate  
Controlled  
Reserved  
Predictable  
Practical  
Detailed  
Persistent  
Orderly  
Discerning  
Analytical  
Precise  
Factual  
Inquisitive  
Scheduled  
"How was it done in the past?"

SCORE:  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Which “box” are you, based on your highest score?

<b>Box 1: Lion</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Is daring and unafraid in new situations.</li><li>2. Likes to be a leader. Often tells others how to do things.</li><li>3. Ready to take on any kind of challenge.</li><li>4. Is firm and serious about what is expected.</li><li>5. Makes decisions quickly.</li></ol>	<b>Box 2: Otter</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Talks a lot and tells wild stories.</li><li>2. Likes to do all kinds of fun things.</li><li>3. Enjoys being in groups. Likes to perform.</li><li>4. Full of energy and always eager to play.</li><li>5. Always happy and see the good part of everything.</li></ol>
<b>Box 3: Golden Retriever</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Always loyal and faithful to friends.</li><li>2. Listens carefully to others.</li><li>3. Likes to help others. Feels sad when other are hurt.</li><li>4. Is a peacemaker. Does not like it when others argue.</li><li>5. Patient and willing to wait for something.</li></ol>	<b>Box 4: Beaver</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Is neat and tidy and notices little details.</li><li>2. Sticks with something until it's done.</li><li>3. Doesn't like to quit in the middle of a game.</li><li>4. Asks lots of questions.</li><li>5. Likes things done the same way.</li><li>6. Tells things just the way they are.</li></ol>

### 4. How do we relate to others?

Our personality cannot preclude our call:

- Love your neighbor as yourself Matthew 12:3
- But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you Luke 6:27
- Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34
- Blessed are the peacemakers Matthew 5:9

### 5. How do we respond to opportunities?

Determining our personality isn't a reason to settle too far into our comfort zones. God can advance our spiritual maturity through sometimes uncomfortable situations. Be open to God's call even when it may not seem like the perfect fit.

Colossians 2:15; Philippians 2:5-8; Thessalonians 5:17

### 6. What next?

- Should we always serve inside activities that are conducive to our personality type?
- There are biblical examples of people who God called to serve outside of their “comfort zone”. (Exodus 3-4, Jonah 1-4, Matthew 14:27-31)
- S.H.A.P.E. is a tool to help us discover more about ourselves in order to live out 24/7 discipleship.
- Consider “test driving” a ministry opportunity – It's easier than walking on water!

## FOR REFLECTION & CONVERSATION

1. How does my personality type glorify God in my home, church, community and world as a serving disciple of Jesus Christ?
2. How might I try to appreciate and/or work cooperatively with different personality types to further the Kingdom?
3. What ministry can I give a test drive this year?
4. Who can I be coaching or mentoring to serve according to their personality traits?