

Plugging In My Personality

(Adapted from Raymond Woodward's *Life Course 301*)

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God”

(2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

Write your name in the box below:

Now write your name with your opposite hand in this box:

What happened when you attempted to do something that was not natural for you?

1. You felt uncomfortable.
2. It took extra time and effort.
3. You still did a lousy job at it.

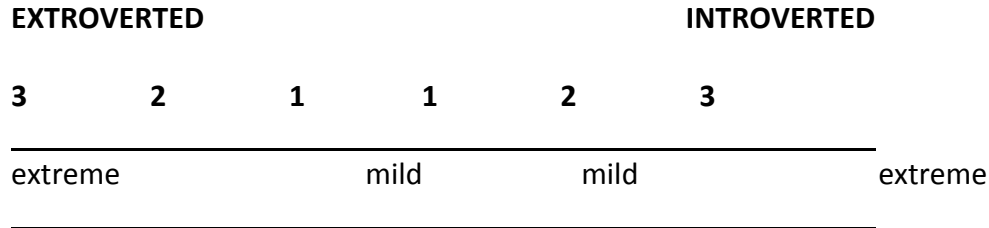
The same things hold true when we try to minister in areas that are not suited to our personality.

God has wired you with a unique personality and temperament. This is critically important in matching you to the right ministry.

It's obvious that God has not used a “cookie cutter” to stamp out people in a process of uniformity. He loves variety – just look around. There are no “right” or “wrong” temperaments. Rather, we need opposites in personality types to balance the church (and life in general!). Although there are many fine personality tests available, for the purpose of your ministry profile we want you to consider just five aspects ...

HOW DO I SEE MYSELF?

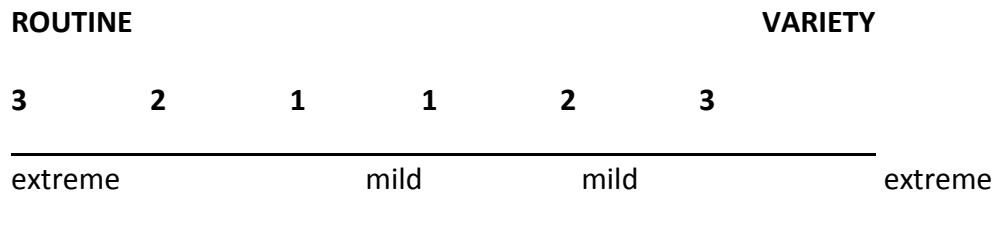
Circle ONE NUMBER on each graph. Note that there is no zero, because no one is “perfectly balanced” in any of these areas.



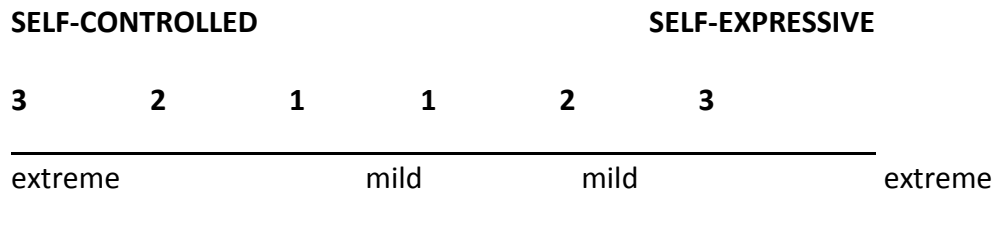
ASK YOURSELF: WHAT RECHARGES ME?



ASK YOURSELF: HOW DO I MAKE DECISIONS?

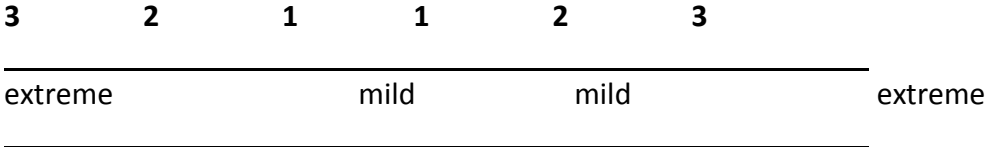


ASK YOURSELF: WHAT KIND OF TASKS DO I PREFER?



ASK YOURSELF: HOW DO I EXPRESS MYSELF?





ASK YOURSELF: HOW DO I RELATE TO OTHERS?

EXAMINING MY EXPERIENCES

“And we know that **in all things** God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28).

“Now I want you to know, brothers, that **what has happened to me** has really served to advance the gospel” (Philippians 1:12).

One of the most overlooked factors in determining the ministry God has for you is past experience, particularly your hurts and the problems you’ve overcome with God’s help. Since our greatest life lessons come out of our weaknesses, not our strengths, we should pay particular attention to what we’ve learned in the “school of hard knocks.” With that in mind, be open and honest as you complete this exercise.

1. What SPIRITUAL experiences have you had?

“There has been enough time for you to be teachers – but you still need to be taught ... (you are) without any experience in the matter of right and wrong” (Hebrews 5:12-13).

List some of your meaningful times with God:

2, What PAINFUL experiences have you had?

“Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways” (Proverbs 20:30).

“(God) ... wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials. And why does he do this? So that when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass on to them the same help and comfort God has given us!” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

List some problems or hurts that you have learned from:

3. What EDUCATIONAL experiences have you had?

“Always remember what you have learned. Your education is your life – guard it well” (Proverbs 4:13).

List some of your favorite subjects in school:

4. What MINISTRY experiences have you had?

“Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel ...” (2 Corinthians 9:13).

List some ways you have served the church in the past:
