

## *Guest Post: Daughters of the King Don't Take Personality Tests 01 Tuesday Mar 2016*

POSTED BY MICHELE LESLEY IN GUEST POSTS

*Christian Women, Facebook Quizzes, Identity in Christ, Internet Quizzes, Meyers Briggs, Personality Tests, Self Esteem, Self Worth*

*If your theology pretty much matches up with mine (as outlined in the "Welcome" and "Statement of Faith" tabs) and you'd like to contribute a guest post, drop me an e-mail at [MichelleLesley1@yahoo.com](mailto:MichelleLesley1@yahoo.com), and let's chat about it.*



### **DAUGHTERS OF THE KING DON'T TAKE PERSONALITY TESTS -BY JESSICA PICKOWICZ**

Scrolling through my Facebook news feed this week I must have come across at least half a dozen personality tests all calling to me — all begging me to answer their questions so each one could tell me who I really am. Am I an introvert or an extrovert? Am I emotional or intellectual? Am I an Anna or an Elsa? (Okay, broke down and took *that* one!) One test analyzed finger lengths by having the reader match her hand to various images of hands; each hand shape was assigned a different personality type.

Another test was ready to label its curious victim as a lion, golden retriever, otter, or other mammal.

And there are always those zodiacs lurking around ready to tell you exactly who you are and how you are feeling today.

So what's the draw? Why are we (I'm speaking to women specifically) so eager to have some secular psychology test, some dim-witted computer algorithm, or some pagan superstition profile our personalities and define our character?

It's been said that "the greatest human desire is to be KNOWN." We just *want* to be known. In our broken flesh, we want to be honored, accepted, validated, and loved. And for a person who is godless, these tests are downed like painkillers. They are momentary relief, momentary security, in a world of pain, bewilderment, and fear — a world of feeling unknown. I've been there myself. Before Christ, I was a junkie for this stuff. I loved my daily "horror-scope" and was especially eager to read the "love and romance" section. Why? Because when you're lonely, when you don't know a thing about God, His providence, sovereignty, sufficiency, and most of all His love, you reach for these things to soothe. It was a comfort to

believe, even for a moment, that someone or *something* was steering my ship; that fate, chance, astrology, or even science could give me some direction and navigation through this life.

But here is the BIG trouble. The inexcusable rebellion is when churches pander to this. It is when churches administer these personality tests in a veiled attempt to *help* believers discover their spiritual gifts, identity, and purpose. It is when churches look anywhere but to His divine power for *anything* pertaining to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).

As Christians, ladies, we must reject this false teaching. Say it with me, "I am a daughter of royal birth. My Father is King of Heaven and Earth." What more, in Heaven and Earth, do we need when our Father is the Most High God?! We must not search anywhere but Scripture for our purpose, calling, gifting, and direction. For "all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Nothing about these personality tests are biblical or God-glorifying. And here are some reasons why.

1. **Personality tests put the focus on self-identity and not on our chief end.** Essentially, personality tests are egocentric. When we are self-focused we don't see or appreciate the greater scope of God's mighty, sovereign, and providential work in our lives. It's a form of pride to be preoccupied with self-identification, covertly seeking one's own glory. However, when I look beyond myself and I realize God's plan for me isn't really about me; it's about Him and *His* glory, then my striving in this life should only be this: to be less like myself (or whatever best version of myself I am aspiring to be) and more like Christ (John 3:30; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 5:1) because I love Him. Once we realize that creation, salvation, and consummation, are all to be "to the praise of His glory" (Ephesians 1:6a, 12, 14), then a personality test will just look like a ridiculous waste of time.

This truth should bring you a great sense of peace, dear sister. The heavy yoke of "finding yourself" is off your shoulders, because you have already been found! Rest in this. Meditate on it.

2. **Personality tests stunt sanctification.** As we grow in the Lord we change to be more like Christ. These tests have a way of holding us back and pigeon-holing us to a place that might not be in line with God's will and ultimate plan for our lives. Furthermore, it sets us up to neglect obeying God in areas that (some silly tests said) are "not within our gifting" and robs us of the blessing of serving as needs arise, as God calls. We must understand that our spiritual gifting is far less of a concern of God than our obedience. We must not operate within some comfortable sphere that some test has insulated.

3. **Personality tests put man's wisdom above God's wisdom.** This is similar to the above point. We must remember that His ways are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9) and our hearts are deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9). Sometimes secular psychology and man's wisdom can seem very smart and very alluring. When it comes to parenting I've found myself fighting the desire to scour the internet for advice. But I know that there is no wisdom of man that can beat-out the Wisdom of God found in Scripture (1 Cor. 1:18-31). His ways are perfect (Psalm 18:30).

4. **Personality tests reinforce and perpetuate a lack of trust in God.** When we are looking to a man-made test for validation of our identity and worth we demonstrate distrust, because

we are looking to every other place except Him. We were made in His image and likeness (Gen. 1:26-27), and in salvation, we are re-made as new creations in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). Therefore, our sole identity as believers is in Jesus Christ Himself.

**5. Personality tests are man's attempt to undermine God in His power, glory, authority, wisdom, sovereignty, faithfulness, and love.** This last point culminates all previous points.

If you remember nothing else, remember this.

Here's my final thought: Earlier I quoted the secular axiom, "The greatest human desire is to be KNOWN." To a secular world-view the assumption is to be known *by other people*. For Christians, this must not be our concern whatsoever. The Bible teaches that we must die to self. It teaches that we will be rejected and persecuted for our beliefs. People on this earth will not know (honor, accept, validate, or love) us. However, *God knows us*. And that, sweet sister, should be all the knowing we need!

"But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn your back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?" Galatians 4:9

In closing, I have a questionnaire of my own.

- Have you been saved by the grace of God through faith in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross?
- Is your chief end to glorify Him in all things and love Him forever?
- Do you believe that His power gives you everything you need for life and godliness?
- Do you believe the Bible can equip you for every good work?
- Do you trust God's plan and will for your life?
- Is your identity in Christ alone?

If you have been born again as a Christian, and answered yes to all six questions, then you are undoubtedly a daughter of the Most High God. And as such, you are hereby exempt from all further personality testing.

God intimately knows each and every one of us. And His desire for us, for godly living, is found in His Word. As for our personalities? We are His children, made in His image. So next time you're tempted to click "Take the Test" don't waste your time on vain pursuits, opt out, and turn here instead:

Titus 2, Galatians 5, 1 Peter 3, Psalm 139, All of Proverbs!

Jessica is wife to New England pastor [Nate Pickowicz](#). She is a homeschooling mom of two. She is a passionate writer who has a big heart for biblical teaching and women's ministry.

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## Christians Don't Take Personality Tests

posted by [Marsha West](#) on March 5, 2016 in [Discernment](#), [Occult](#), [Psychology in the Church](#) 9

I discovered the following post, written by Jessica Pickowicz, on Michelle Lesley's blog. I've written on this subject myself in [Carl Jung: Psychologist or Sorcerer?](#) In it I examined Carl Jung's and Isabel Briggs Myers' typological approach to personality. The Myers-Briggs test is designed to see what makes people tick. Christians should not take part in this sort of testing for several reasons, which I explain in my piece.

For one thing,

*Jung was deeply involved with his mother and two female cousins in hypnotically induced séances. He was also involved in alchemy, fortune telling, and channeling spirits. All are [occult practices](#). Involvement in any of this sort of thing is going against God.*

And as Jessica reminds us "secular psychology and man's wisdom can seem very smart and very alluring," so we scour the Internet for advice. Why do Christians bother when we know that "there is no wisdom of man that can beat-out the Wisdom of God found in Scripture ([1 Cor. 1:18-31](#)). His ways are perfect ([Psalm 18:30](#))."

Even though Jessica entitled her piece "Daughters of the King Don't Take Personality Tests," men will gain insight from what she says. So continue reading, brother!

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[See our White Paper on the Occult-sorcery and learn the ways in which dabbling in the occult can cause a person spiritual damage.](#)



# 'Christian' Temperament Profiling ?

**The Bible speaks clearly about Elementalism; it's the hidden basis of personality profiling.**

If you are prepared to accept the idea of profiling, then be warned, you are also swallowing the totally unbiblical idea that we are stuck forever with the way we were born and only minor changes can be made, and those, by our own efforts.

Before my wife became a Christian she was heavily involved in the occult, she practiced fortune telling and divination amongst other things. After her conversion to Christianity we were horrified to find that our church had started using exactly the same methods of divination that she had used. Occult practices had been dressed up in Christian jargon and were being used under the guise of 'Christian Counselling'.

Elementalism is the belief that four spirits control the temperaments of human beings. The spirits are from four basic elements; Earth, Wind, Fire and Water. These four elements are at the very heart of almost all occult practices, fortune-telling, divination, witchcraft, astrology, temperament profiling and other esoteric philosophies.

The system divides the human temperament into four basic types. The use of the four temperaments is the method by which occult seers evaluate and can manipulate people. The use of these systems to evaluate people is not without power because Satan is behind them.

**The Amplified New Testament is very helpful when looking at this topic.**

Colossians deals with this subject very clearly, particularly chapter 2. The error that Paul is addressing is the philosophy of **Elementalism**, the power of the spirits of the four elements. Colossians 2 v 8 describes Paul's feelings about these philosophies.

*'See to it that no one carries you off as spoil or makes you yourselves captive by his so-called philosophy and intellectualism and vain deceit, following human tradition – men's ideas of the material world – just crude notions following the rudimentary and **elemental** teachings of the universe, and disregarding (the teachings of) Christ the Messiah.'*

**Does profiling work?**

At best the results are worldly and at worst they have the potential to make captives of believers who accept and implement their conclusions. **Consulting a source other than God or His word to uncover hidden information is spiritual adultery!** The Bible tells us that we are all born under the dominion and control of the powers of darkness; **all methods of divination are part of that control.** It doesn't matter if the method of "analysis" is palm reading, tea-leaves, tarot cards, an astrological wheel or a 'New Age' computer programme, **it is all divination** – seeking hidden information from a source other than God. The characteristic classifications of these methods of divination are all remarkably similar. Read Deuteronomy 18 v 10-22 if you really want to know how seriously God takes this sin. Colossians 1 v 13

*'The Father has delivered and drawn us to himself out of the Control and Dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love'.*

**Profiling is not new!**

The devil is not idle and he sends his demons to re-enforce such divination, so it is no wonder that the results can seem convincing. These occult practices and philosophies were present in the time of the apostle Paul and originally pre-date Moses, so it is inconceivable that he was not referring to them when he wrote Colossians. Only 300 years before Paul's time, Hippocrates adapted elementalism to fit in with his crude ideas about four bodily fluids. Colossians 2 v 20

*'If then you have died with Christ to the material ways of looking at things and have escaped from the world's crude and **Elemental** notions and teachings of Externalism (a philosophy*

which holds that external forces shape and control human behaviour) *why do you live as though you still belong to the world?*

### **What gets analysed?**

The above scripture shows us that we are supposed to have died to our old self, and it is only that old self that these systems can analyse. Death and new birth in Christ give us a new start, which these schemes are incapable of analysing because they are hidden in Christ! When we are born again we are born under a new star - Jesus, He is our standard.

Col 3 v 3

*For (as far as this world is concerned) you have died, and your (new, real) life is **hid** with Christ in God.*

There are not four, twelve or even twenty categories into which we can fit the temperaments of believers. The fruits of the Spirit describe the one re-born temperament that all believers should have and aim for. This is not self-improvement on wrong satanic principles, but the inner working of the Holy Spirit. We are not stuck with the way we were born, we can and must be changed, reborn by the power of our God. God is so great and multi-faceted that for all of us to be more like Him makes each one of us more unique! **The greatness of God belies the error of fitting Christians into pigeonholes.**

Col 3 v 1

*'If you then have been raised with Christ (to a new life, thus sharing His resurrection from the dead), aim at and seek the treasures that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.*

As a church we should not be looking to these satanic and unbiblical methods for special insight.

### **Where can we find the truth?**

Col 2 v 3-4

*'In Him (Jesus) all the treasures of Divine wisdom, of comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God, and (all the riches of spiritual knowledge) and enlightenment are stored up and lie hidden. I say this in order that no one may mislead and delude you by plausible and attractive arguments and beguiling speech.'*

This scripture shows us that the real truth about hidden things can only be found in Jesus. We are in danger of being misled and deluded.

### **So what is the church doing using these evil tools?**

Can the egocentric New-Age ideal of 'realising our full potential' really be the answer to maturity in Christ? The answer is a resounding NO!

Col 2 v 10

*'And you are in Him, made full and have come to the fullness of life - in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and reach full spiritual stature.'*

Col 2 v 7

*'Have the roots of your being firmly and deeply planted in Him, being continually built up in Him.'*

**It is only in Him!**

### **The Spiritual gift test**

Another New Age error that is closely associated with personality tests is the notion that a computer programme can reveal our Spiritual Gifts!

Once more we are asked to forget what scripture says and accept the false idea that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to everybody when they're born! While attending a British charismatic church, the author of this article repeatedly heard the teaching that if you were engaged in fortune telling before you became a Christian, then you have the gift of prophecy,



or knowledge; if you healed people using aura healing before you were converted, then you have the gift of healings etc. The truth is that if you were engaged in these things before becoming a Christian then **you need deliverance** from the demons that empower these devilish manifestations! We need to be set free from the control and dominion of darkness, not accept the advice of a worldly computer programme to **drag our psychic powers into the church!**

The Bible shows that the Holy Spirit gives His gifts only to God's people as and when *he* chooses. Spiritual gifts can be given by the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands, or by prayer and by God's gracious response to a deep desire for a particular gift. 1 Cor 12 v 4-11; 1 Cor 12 v 31; 2 Tim 1 v 6.

The 'deeper' analysis of these ungodly systems, the ones you don't get shown, are being used covertly to choose new Church leaders. This really is happening in Churches today! The author of this article had firsthand experience of mature, Godly, Bible loving Christians being pushed aside as leaders, in favour of ungodly people who fared well in these psychometric tests. The consequence of following the results of the profiles was, often, disastrous and brought disrepute to the Church.

### **The International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences (not a Christian book) points out:**

*'Typologies serve two basic functions: they codify and they allow **prediction**. They are appealing because they offer simplistic pigeonholing and an assumed peek into the unknown. Hence they are a form of **divination and fortune telling**. They can be as entertaining as any parlor game, but the real tragedy of such schemes is that life-and-death advice is being given to people. A "Temperament Counselor" who advises on a lifetime career, marriage or spiritual development is likely to influence people's lives for good or ill. Moreover, the victims often believe that they are really gaining knowledge about others and often rely upon the scheme to explain and excuse questionable behavior in others and themselves, instead of growing and changing by assuming responsibility.*

*Unfortunately, from the scientific point of view, nothing is explained if the state we have attributed to the person from his behaviour, is then invoked as the **cause** of the behaviour from which it was inferred. Circular explanations like this give the **appearance** of a genuine explanation that offers genuine knowledge. But it is only illusory.'*

### **Christians are supposed to have fidelity!**

Sometimes God's insight may only be found in hours of prayer. These systems seem to offer a quick easy solution, but they give ungodly answers! They just pander to vanity or insecurity.

### **The big question**

The church needs to wake up and be discerning and check everything against scripture. The big question is: Does the Bible tell us that we **cannot** change the temperament that we were born with? Look into it yourself, but you will find that the answer is definitely NO!

**If then, we can be radically changed, be born again and empowered by God's Holy Spirit, then the whole basis for these ungodly ideas falls apart!**

**Martin Edwyn** martin.edwyn@gmail.com

*Bold emphasis in the quotations is mine. Details in parenthesis that are not italicised in the quotations are mine. Written in 1986 revised 2004, 2010, 2012.*

Elementalism: Carl Yung, Briggs-Meyer and Hippocrates are some of the famous exploiters of personality profiling. They are all on this site:

<http://www.webwinds.com/myth/elemental.htm>

*By referring you to this site and its references I do not associate myself with its beliefs.*

27 May 2012 16:10

## **I WILL BE WITH YOU!**

February 1, 1993

Hunt, Dave

A variety of psychotherapies masquerading under Christian terminology are devastating the church by turning Christians from God to self. Among the most deadly are regressive therapies designed to probe the unconscious for buried memories which are allegedly causing everything from depression to fits of anger and sexual misconduct and must be uncovered and "healed." These offshoots of Freudian and Jungian theories rooted in the occult and which have destructively impacted society for decades are taking their toll within the church.

One popular variety of regression therapy is called "inner healing" and was brought into the church by occultist Agnes Sanford (see [The Seduction of Christianity](#)). It was carried on after her death by those she influenced, such as lay therapists Ruth Carter Stapleton, Rosalind Rinker, John and Paula Sandford, William Vaswig, Rita Bennett and others. At first most prevalent among charismatics and liberal churches, inner healing has spread widely in evangelical circles. There it is practiced in a more sophisticated form by psychologists such as David Seamands, H. Norman Wright and James G. Friesen as well as a number of lay therapists like Fred and Florence Littauer. The Littauers' extreme insistence that rare is the person "who can say he truly had a happy childhood" would seem to condition their counselees to recover unhappy and traumatic memories.

Even if it were safely and accurately possible, should one probe into the past in order to dredge up forgotten memories? Memory is notoriously deceitful and self-serving. One is easily talked into "remembering" something which may never have happened. Inner healing, like other forms of psychotherapy, creates, by its very nature, false memories. Furthermore, why must one uncover memories of past abuse in order to have a right relationship with God? Where does the Bible say so? And if parts of the past must be "remembered," why not every detail? That task would be hopeless. Yet once the theory is accepted one can never be certain that some trauma is not still hidden in the unconscious—a trauma holding the key to emotional and spiritual well-being!

In contrast, Paul *forgot* the past and pressed on toward the prize (**Philippians:3:13-14**) promised to all those who love Christ's appearing (**2 Tim:4:7-8**)

). The past is of little consequence if Christians truly are new creations for whom "old things are passed away [and] all things are become new" (**2 Cor:5:17**)

). Searching the past in order to find an "explanation" for one's present behavior conflicts with the entire teaching of Scripture. Though it may seem to help for a time, it actually robs one of the biblical solution through Christ. What matters is not the past, but one's personal relationship to Christ now.

Yet many people claim to have been helped by regressive therapy. Finding the "reason" in a past trauma (whether real or a "memory" implanted by suggestion in the therapy process) can bring a change in attitude and behavior for a time. Sooner or later, however, depression or anger or frustration or temptation returns, leaving one to renew the search into the past to find that "key" trauma, the memory of which has not yet been uncovered. And so it goes.

In keeping with the Freudian foundation of all "inner healing," Fred and Florence Littauer's book, *Freeing Your Mind from Memories that Bind*, presents the thesis that uncovering hidden memories is the key to emotional and spiritual well-being. They suggest that any "memory gaps" from childhood indicate one has probably been abused (and very likely, sexually). By that definition we've all been abused. Most of us can't remember each house we've lived in, each school attended, every teacher and classmate, every family vacation when we were children. To teach, as the Littauers do, that these "memory gaps" indicate

periods of abuse that have been covered up by the mind is contrary to common sense and is without scientific verification or biblical support.

The Littauers, like so many others in this field, base their approach upon the so-called four temperaments. This long-discredited personality theory evolved from the ancient Greek belief that the physical realm was composed of four elements: earth, air, fire and water.

Empedocles related these to four pagan deities, while Hippocrates tied them to what were considered at that time to be the four bodily humors: blood (sanguine), phlegm (phlegmatic), yellow bile (choleric) and black bile (melancholy). These characteristics were connected to the signs of the zodiac.

There never was any scientific basis for the four temperaments. Yet many Christian psychologists and lay "healers" swear by them today, making them the basis of "personality classification" and the key to behavioral insights. As the Bobgans point out, however, in their excellent latest book, *"Four Temperaments, Astrology & Personality Testing"*:

*The word temperament itself comes from the Latin word temperamentum which meant "proper mixing." The idea was that if the bodily fluids were tempered, that is, reduced in their intensity by balancing the humors with each other, then healing would occur....*

*Even the positions of various planets were thought to alter the fluids for better or worse....*

*The four temperaments had virtually been discarded after the Middle Ages ...until a few lone souls discovered them among relics of the past and marketed them in twentieth-century language....*

*[Recently], the temperaments have been enjoying a revival...among astrologers and evangelical Christians....[T]he four temperaments are that feature of astrology made palatable to Christians.*

Like other Christian psychologists and lay inner healers, the Littauers do not derive their theory and practice from a careful exegesis of Scripture, but quote an isolated verse now and then in an attempt to give the appearance of biblical support. For example, they quote part of a verse "I, the Lord, search the minds and test the hearts of men" (**Jer:17:10**, TEV)—beneath their second chapter title, "Searching Ourselves." In fact, this scripture opposes the idea of searching ourselves. It declares that only God can search and understand our hearts: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart...to give every man according to...the fruit of his doings" (17:9-10, KJV).

The context of these two verses gives the lie to the application made not only by the Littauers but by other well-meaning "inner healers." God curses those who trust in anything else and blesses those who trust only in Him. He promises that those who trust in Him "shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that [never shall] cease from yielding fruit" (**Jer:17:8**). A fruitful life (love, joy, peace, etc.) is produced by the working of the Spirit of God in the lives of those who surrender their otherwise deceitful hearts to Him! And nowhere does the Bible say that taking personality tests and learning one's "temperament" aids His work in us. The Littauers have extreme difficulty finding scriptures even remotely appropriate and thus are forced to misapply the Bible. As a further example, the chapter titled "Earliest Memories" (p 141) is headed by the verse, "My heart breaks when I remember the past" (**Ps:42:4**, TEV). In fact, David is not referring at all to "earliest memories" but to the current ridicule and criticism he is receiving from those who "say daily [i.e., *presently*] unto me, Where is thy God?" The verse, "Write down in a book everything that I have told you" (**Jer:30:2**, TEV), is quoted directly under the chapter heading "Ready, Aim, Write." That chapter is about taking a "thorough look into your past" and "writing down one's feelings"—about as far from Jeremiah recording Scripture under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit as one could get! The Littauers are only one example among a host of inner healers, whether licensed Christian psychologists or lay persons, who, though they may be sincere, are leading Christians astray by the millions. Best-selling pop-[psychology](#) authors Gary Smalley and John

Trent, heavily promoted by James Dobson, came up with their own four temperaments based upon animal types: lion, beaver, otter, and golden retriever!

One's "personality type" or "temperament" is allegedly discovered through a personality profile test such as the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis (TJTA), Personal Profile System (PPS), Personality Profile Test (PPT), Biblical Personal Profiles (BPP), etc. Though popular, personality tests are unreliable. Human personality with its power to choose and a heart that God says is "deceitful above all things" defy predictive formulas and are far too complex to neatly categorize. Even the once-promising classifications of persons as Type A Personalities, (susceptible to heart attack), Type B (less susceptible) and Cancer Personalities, etc. are being discarded because no scientific correlation can be found between disease and "personality type."

These inaccurate and destructive tests are promoted by a host of popular Christian authors and speakers such as psychologist H. Norman Wright and financial analyst Larry Burkett. Four-temperament and personality-classification theories trivialize the human soul and spirit and provide excuses for un-Christian behavior. The focus is on self, analyzing one's feelings, personality, childhood, and trying to find out why one thinks and does what one does. In contrast, the focus in the Bible is upon God and Christ and His Word, turning from ourselves to Him, turning from the past to present service, and the hope of His return. Instead of seeking to identify one's personality and temperament by reference to speculative systems related to [psychology](#), astrology and the occult, one's thoughts and actions need to be governed by God's inerrant and sufficient Word. God promises that if we heed the doctrine in His Word, He will by "reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness" direct our lives (**2**

#### **Tim:3:16**

). As a result, men and women of God become mature, perfected and prepared unto every good work (v 17). Peter assures us that God "hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue" (2 Pt 1:3). Jesus declared that those who continue in obedience to His Word are His true disciples who "know the truth" and whom the truth makes free (**Jn:8:31-32**

). Only those who doubt such promises or are unwilling to take the way of the Cross turn to manmade theories and therapies.

The Bible never even hints at personality types, nor does it categorize individuals as to strengths and weaknesses as a means of identifying their abilities and predicting their success or failure in God's service. Rejecting Saul's armor, with a sling and five stones David went up against the heavily armed Goliath who had terrorized the entire army of [Israel](#). What was his secret? "I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts....This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand" (**1 Sam:17:45-46**

). David's confidence was in the Lord, not in himself. Even had David not been an expert with the sling, God would have enabled him to hit the mark. Paul went so far as to state that God told him that His strength was perfected in Paul's weakness. Thus Paul declared, "...when I am weak, then am I strong" (**2 Cor:12:10**

). Such statements refute the entire rationale of personality testing, temperament identification, and self-esteem and self-worth enhancement.

The Bible is filled with examples of men and women who were hated, abused and cast out by their own families—men and women who were loners, friendless, lacking in talents or abilities, yet who triumphed over the greatest adversity because of their trust in God. These heroes and heroines of the faith give the lie to the unbiblical and humanistic focus upon self that underlies all of the pop psychologies of inner healing. Moses is but one example among many.

When God called Moses to go to Egypt to deliver His people, Moses pleaded that he was incapable of such a mission and asked God to choose someone else (Ex 3:11, 4:10-13). Did God administer a personality test to show Moses that he was well suited? Did he deal with Moses' poor self-image or abysmal self-worth? Did he prescribe inner healing to deliver



Moses from those buried memories of being abandoned by his parents and raised in a foster home and the lack of self-identity that resulted? Did he give him a course in self-improvement, self-confidence and success? On the contrary, God made this promise: "I will be with you!"

The well-meaning "counsel" of those who attempt to help Christians understand themselves, by focusing upon self, actually robs counselees of the divine presence and power which Moses knew. Human strengths and weaknesses are beside the point. What matters is whether or not the power of God's Holy Spirit is manifest in one's life. Many if not most of the great Bible characters as well as the more recent heroes of the faith, from the early martyrs to the great missionary pioneers of the nineteenth century, would probably fail today's personality profile tests.

In fact, God did not choose Moses because he was *highly qualified*. He was chosen because he was the meekest man on the face of the earth (**Num:12:3**

). Why would God choose such a person to confront the mightiest emperor of the day on his turf, in his palace, to deliver [Israel](#) from his grip? He did so to teach the Israelites to trust in Him rather than man for their deliverance!

Never is there a hint that Joseph, David, Daniel or any other hero of the faith needed the therapies which are considered to be so vital and effective today. It was when Job got such a glimpse of God that he said, "I abhor [hate] myself" and repented in ashes (Jb 42:5-6) that he was restored by the Lord. It was when Isaiah also had a vision of God and cried, "Woe is me! for I am undone" (**Isa:6:1-8**

) that God was able to use him. We need to turn from self-analysis to look at the Lord.

Thirst for God! Get to know Him! The fruit of the Spirit does not come as the result of understanding ourselves through the use of humanistic analyses or techniques (though clothed in biblical language), but through the manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit in our weakness. Be weak enough for Him to use you! **TBC**

# When testing replaces community – 4.0

Rick Thomas

The fact that Christians have been so easily persuaded by the validity of personality tests and have developed an affinity for such tests points to a lack of understanding and practice of the Bible in their lives. It is also an indictment of the local church, as it pertains to its weaknesses regarding discipling the body.

This may come as a surprise to some, but it is hardly a surprise for the biblical counselor. A lack of practical understanding of the Bible and a general weakness in local church discipleship processes was what gave rise to the biblical counseling movement in the 1970's. Teaching people the practical truths of what Peter told us 2000 years ago is what keeps me in business as a para-Church (Read: alongside the local church, but not the local church) organization:

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence... – [2 Peter 1:3 \(ESV\)](#)

We were granted *all things that pertain to life and godliness* long before Freud told Jung that they were going to change the world in the early 1900's. Freud's hatred for God motivated him to create a new way to think about the human condition. Many others have followed his path, as the psychological community has evolved into the ever-changing world of DSMs.

Because of the encroachments of the psychological community, it would be an unfair assumption to think that Christians know how to accurately understand themselves through the lens of Scripture. The primary reason that personality testing has such a foothold in the Christian mind is because of a general lack of awareness of the true purpose of Bible: to reveal the true person of God and the true person of man and how God came to transform man through the death and resurrection of His Son. Simply put, this is a discipleship issue.

## Understand Your Gifting; Understand Yourself

For example, nothing can assess your gifting better than the Bible, especially in the context of a caring, discipleship community. Nothing can supplant the Bible when worked out through biblical discipleship processes, as far as assessing your personality. James gives us a clue as to how we drift from the Bible as a primary means of God's grace that he gives us to help us understand ourselves better:

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. – [James 1:22-25 \(ESV\)](#)

The mirror, according to James' inspired understanding, is the Word of God. James is saying that we tend to look into the Word (mirror), make some mental notes by assessing ourselves, and then quickly forget what we saw. When we do this, we are cutting ourselves off from being blessed.

## Testing Replaces Community

As mentioned earlier in this post, another major key to biblical assessment is biblical community. The psychological tester unwittingly has replaced biblical community by their testing tools. The test has



replaced the person as a means of grace to help figure out human deficiencies. I understand the problem: if you have never had consistent biblical fellowship in the context of a caring, discipleship community, where people were carefully and lovingly speaking into all areas of your life, then how can you know the sufficiency of Scripture and the practical transformative help that it brings to our lives through the community of faith? You can't know what you don't know.

Too many Christian husbands and wives do not experience this depth of biblical community, also called biblical fellowship (Koinonia), where careful, loving, observation, and correction is given to them in order to adjust them so they may grow in ways that matter.

Too many Christian relationships are so superficial that it leaves one longing for something to help them grow. This leads the Christian community to look outside of the Bible and biblical contexts for self-discovery. One of the many *means of grace* that I have received from God, over the years, are people who are willing to love me enough to show me what I do not see about myself. A person who has this kind of community (Koinonia) is not only positioned for initial assessment, but there is a context in place for long-term, transformative growth.

If a test is your best option to accomplish what you are trying to do then I want to encourage you by letting you know that God has something for you that can blow your mind.

***Caveat:*** *When I speak of personality tests I am talking about tests that reveal your personality or your character. I am not talking about tests that seek to discover health, medical, or physical abnormalities.*

## The Series

- [I'm Type A! I'm an Otter! I'm a Choleric! What Are You? – 1.0](#)
- [Otter-ology and other false continuums – 2.0](#)
- [Personality Tests & Psychology – 3.0](#)
- [When Testing Replaces Community – 4.0](#)
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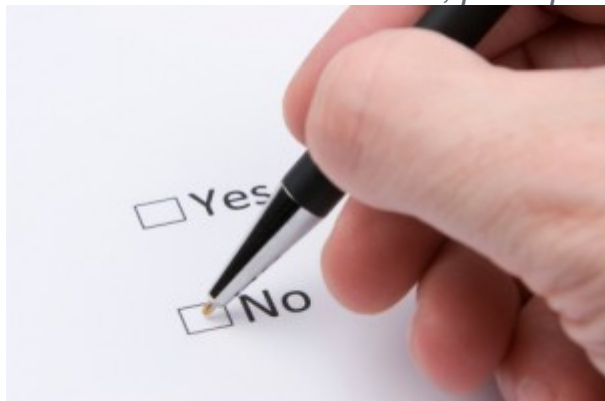
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## Beware of Personality and Temperament Assessment Tests

Posted on January 12, 2011 by SBrinkmann

KP writes: *“I was wondering what the difference was between enneagrams (which I know are bad) and other personality tests vs. temperament tests. I often see books like ‘The Temperament God Gave You’ etc in orthodox catalogs, such as Ignatius Press and Leaflet Missal Company. Do these not both still focus on the self rather than God or is the temperament test designed to help one focus on their weaknesses in terms of attachment to sin and how to overcome this, perhaps?”*



Excellent question, KP!

In a nutshell, *beware of all types of personality and temperament assessment tests*. I say this for practical reasons. This multi-million dollar industry is largely unregulated with many of these tests being administered by poorly trained and sometimes completely unqualified personnel.

An excellent book on the subject was written in 2004 by Annie Murphy Paul entitled *The Cult of Personality: How Personality Tests are Leading us to Miseducate our Children, Mismanage our Companies and Misunderstand Ourselves*. Paul is a journalist whose expertise was in covering mental health and psychology for several mainstream publications. Writing for a general audience, she documents the sometimes dubious history of the most widely known tests, from the Rorschach inkblot test to the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, listing their uses and misuses.

For instance, numerous investigations have found that many Rorschach test results are not supported by evidence, yet it continues to be used in nearly a third of emotional injury assessments and in almost half of child custody evaluations.

The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory was actually created in a Midwestern mental hospital and designed *by the patients*. Although it was originally intended just for the mentally ill, it is now being used on everyone from paramedics to clergy members and is administered on an estimated 1.5 million Americans a year.

The most popular of all, the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, was created in the 1940's by a Pennsylvania housewife who thought it could bring about world peace. (I'm not making this up.) The test is administered by 89 of Fortune 100 companies today even though as many as three-quarters of test takers achieve a *different personality type* when tested again. Perhaps this is because the sixteen so-called “types” described by Myers-Briggs have no scientific basis.

At the end of the book, Paul concludes that personality and temperament tests are “overly reductionistic” and neglect to account for the context, situation and environment in which an individual lives and works. In other words, people are too complicated to be pigeon-holed into narrow, one-dimensional labels.

Scott E. Provost, M.M., M.S.W., who reviewed the book for *Psychiatric Services*, said Paul's findings should sound an alarm for anyone who administers personality tests, interprets the results and, most importantly, who are subjected to the tests.

“Most, if not all, ordinary individuals who are subjected to personality tests either as a condition of employment or as mandated by court order are powerless to protect themselves from the damage of being condemned to a one-dimensional label. Despite the evidence that many personality tests lack reliability and validity, they are unlikely to disappear from use in corporations, courts, schools, and other institutions in the near future. The take-home point, therefore, is caveat emptor (buyer beware).”

Mankind has long flirted with the idea of the four humors or temperaments (Sanguine, choleric, phlegmatic, and melancholic) which are connected with astrology. While this might make for interesting reading, we must be careful not to let this information be used for spiritual direction.

As the Pontifical Document, *Jesus Christ the Bearer of the Water of Life*, warns about the Enneagram, “. . . when used as a means of spiritual growth, introduces an ambiguity in the doctrine and the life of the Christian faith.” (Sec. 1.4)

For those of you who are not aware, the Enneagram was developed by several occultists. One of these men, Oscar Ichazo, claims he began having out-of-body experiences at the age of six. According to New Age expert and former Enneagram enthusiast, Father Mitch Pacwa, Ichazo “could not accept Catholic teaching on heaven or hell because he had been there and knew more about it than Christ and the Church.”

Ichazo was involved in Oriental martial arts, Zen, Andes Indian thought, shamanism, yoga, hypnotism and psychology and claims to have received instructions from a higher entity called “Metatron, the prince of the archangels.” He and his followers claim to contact lower spirits through meditation and mantras, and to be guided by an internal master, known as the Green Qu’Tub, who makes himself known when they reach a sufficiently high stage of development. (You can’t make this stuff up.)

This is not to suggest by any means that personality and temperament tests are all occult-based, but this field is definitely popular with New Agers who thrive on self-realization. If only as much time was spent meditating on the attributes of God rather than on ourselves!

A personal relationship with Jesus Christ is the best way to pursue the kind of self-knowledge that will get you into heaven. That, coupled with 30 minutes a day of mental prayer (start with 10 minutes and work your way up) is the best way to discover one’s weaknesses and attachments to sin – not through personality or temperament tests.

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