

# Fearfully and Wonderfully Made and the Difference Grace Makes



***But by the grace of God I am what I am:*** and his **grace** which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but **I** laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

1 Corinthians 15:10

Objectives:    to understand how uniquely (fearfully and wonderfully) we are made  
                      to gain a better understanding of ourselves and others  
                      to grow in grace and enhance our personal growth and ministry

Becoming a Christian does not eliminate human personality. Being a Christian should add grace to it. Just as surely as we have a personality on earth, we will have personality in Heaven. [How else would we recognize each other? In 1 Cor. 13:12, Paul uses the metaphor of seeing “through a glass, darkly” to illustrate our current limited understanding and perception. He contrasts this with the future, when we will see “face to face” and have a complete and clear understanding. The phrase “then shall I know even as also I am known” suggests that in the future, we will have a full and intimate knowledge, similar to how God fully knows us now.](#)

We each are **bent** a certain way, **“for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain”** (Phil. 2:13-16). That really is the goal.

The conversion of a soul is the miracle of a moment.  
The manufacture of a saint is the task of a lifetime.  
—Alan Redpath

We are always sowing our future.  
We are always reaping our past.  
—W. R. Inge

[We are living in a different kind of world.](#)

[III.: recent commercial “for those who were assigned female at birth”](#)

[According to the nonprofit organization devoted to maintaining the world standard for text and emoji, there are 3,664 different emojis, all meaning something different.](#)

[It helps to see ourselves in others’ stories. Fortunately, the Bible gives us characters of all shapes and sizes and situations.](#)

The apostle Paul was a self-proclaimed lover of the Law and a Pharisee, enforcer of the “right way,” even to the point of murder. This, of course, describes Paul before the Damascus Road experience.

Once he started following Jesus, he gave up his murderous ways. He did not, however, abandon his passion for a just world. Paul is an excellent character study. You see clearly his dark, unhealthy side. You also see clearly how God redeems Paul's core passion (justice, in particular) for His glory.

Women, especially, operate too much on **feelings**, which are about as certain as the sand on the beach. The good news is that God gave us feelings, and He has feelings. The two things by which we are so easily changed are **people** and **circumstances**. We are so easily influenced and changed by **words**, **actions**, and **tones** of other people—or just by the look on their face. Cock an eyebrow. Roll our eyes. Cross our arms. Huff and puff. We have so many choices.

III.: Charles Stanley said anytime we want to respond “in kind” or in unkind to someone who has made us irritated or angry, we should picture ourselves stopped at a red light. There are three way we can go. Don't make a move until you choose the right road to take.

As a preacher's daughter for 25 years and a preacher's wife for 40 years, I have come to realize that people are more tolerant of others if they understand them—why they do what they do, why they say what they say. For example, a wise woman knows the key to a good marriage is in knowing the difference between what makes your husband “tick” and what makes him “ticked.”

In this study, you will better understand yourself, and you will also better understand your spouse, your children, your friends, and even some acquaintances you have yet to figure out. We will dive into the lives of Bible characters and see what made them tick and how they managed to accomplish God's purpose even with their bent-a-certain-way personalities.

Consider the *Apostle* Paul, who was once *Agnostic* Paul until he met grace. He still had the same strong personality after salvation, but grace re-directed it.

**“The apostle Paul had one of those arresting, magnetic personalities that inevitably produces a polarizing effect upon those around them. When confronted with his dynamic, disciplined, decisive character, they were compelled to act.”**

Warren Wiersbe in *Bible Personalities: A Treasury of Insights for Personal Growth and Ministry*

## PERSONALITY #1—PAUL

### PAUL'S UNIQUE PERSONALITY—AND POSSIBLY YOURS

1. Motivated by a longing for a just and moral world—and plain spoken about it. 1 Cor. 15:33-34  
“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. **Awake to righteousness and sin not;** for some have not the knowledge of God: **I speak this to your shame.**”  
III.: Ever said to someone, “Shame on you”?

2. Takes education seriously. Acts 22:3; 5:34-40  
“...brought up in this city **at the feet of Gamaliel**, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was **zealous toward God**, as ye all are this day.”  
Ill.: avid readers, lover of words, lover of books—some people are and some aren’t; Paul was this.
3. Driven to go *forward* and accomplish the task given. Phil. 3:14-15; 1 Cor. 15:58  
“This **one thing** I do: **I press toward the mark** for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus...”  
“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, **always abounding in the work of the Lord** forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”  
Ill.: My husband said he could give my sister Christiana (who was an employee) any job to do and she would get it done at any cost, but he would have to hand out body bags afterward
4. Careful of behavior so their conscience doesn’t condemn them. Acts 23:1  
“And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all **good conscience** before God until this day.”  
Ill.: In the presence of a young man who was making a mockery of the “alternate lifestyle” was put in his place when a child remarked, “The Bible says fools make a mock at sin.”
5. Conscious of duty and responsibility. 1 Cor. 16:13  
“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”  
Ill.: There was a pastor who literally handed out “man cards,” and would take it back from any man who acted otherwise.
6. Are compulsively punctual. 1 Cor. 14:40; see also “**when I come**” in 1 Cor. 16:2-3; 11 Cor. 12:20-21).  
“Let all things be done **decently and in order**.”  
Disclaimer for women who do a lot: We just want to get one more thing done; it’s not that we’ve been lounging around.
7. Inclined to deny and discipline themselves. 1 Cor. 8:13; 15:31; Gal. 2:20  
“Wherefore, **if** meat make my brother to offend, **I will eat no flesh while the world standeth....**”  
“I die daily.” “I am crucified with Christ...”  
Paul said if it made his brother to offend, he would eat no flesh—while the world standeth!  
That’s some serious commitment. Not playing here.
8. Prone to find fault and **call people out** (for us, this has to be controlled by the Spirit). Gal. 3:1  
“O **foolish Galatians**, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth?”  
“And withal they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.”  
Paul felt comfortable telling women what they should be doing and wearing and all the things. He just called them right out. Interesting since he wasn’t married, huh?
9. Known for “circling back” to check on things. Acts 15:36  
“And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, **Let us go again and visit our brethren** in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, **and see how they do**.”  
How would *you* feel about Paul checking back to see if you had done what he said you should?

10. Has boundless energy, a trait which tends to overwhelm others. 1 Cor. 15:10; 11 Thess. 3:10  
“...his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but **I labored more abundantly than them all....**” “This we command you, that **if any would not work, neither should he eat.**”  
III.: We know how active Paul was before his salvation experience. He is no less intense about getting things done after salvation.

See Philippians 1:3-8 for a glimpse of Paul's sentimental side.

It is evidence of God's grace softening his heart.

<sup>3</sup> **I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,**

<sup>4</sup> **Always in every prayer of mine for you all** making request with joy,

<sup>5</sup> For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

<sup>6</sup> Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you  
will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

<sup>7</sup> Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because **I have you in my heart**; inasmuch as both in my bonds,  
and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

<sup>8</sup> For God is my record, **how greatly I long after you all** in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

Paul's advice to those with his serious, driven personality:

***“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches,  
but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy” (1 Tim. 6:17).***