

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made and the Difference Grace Makes



“ . . . **Behold the handmaid of the Lord;** be it unto me according to thy word . . . ” (Luke 1:38).

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.

WE WILL BE KNOWN EVEN AS ALSO WE ARE KNOWN (1 COR. 13:12).

“Would not that be a dreary heaven for us to inhabit, where we should be alike, unknown and unknowing? I would not care to go to such a heaven as that. I believe that Heaven is a fellowship of the saints, and that we shall know one another there.” (Charles Spurgeon)

PERSONALITY #2—MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS; THE APOSTLE JOHN

THEIR UNIQUE PERSONALITY—AND POSSIBLY YOURS

1. Employ their gifts and abilities for the needs, and care, of **others** (Luke 2:7; Jn. 19:25-27).
Mary and John are intrinsically tied together. Mary watched Jesus take His first breath.
John stood with her as Jesus took His last breath.
2. Often base their identity on how others **react** toward them (Mark 3:32-35).
“And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee. And he answered them, saying, Who is my mother, or my brethren? And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and my mother.”
3. Are sincere and **warm** hearted (Lk. 1:46; 1 Jn. 4:8; Jn. 3:16).
*“And Mary said, **My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.**”*
“He that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love.”
4. Are generous, friendly, and **self-sacrificing** (Lk. 2:4-5).
Mary and Joseph traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem—90 miles; 4-7 days of treacherous travel, but there is no mention of Mary making the journey more difficult than it already was.

5. Are well-meaning and driven to be **close** to others (Jn. 13:21-25).
*"Now there was **leaning on Jesus' bosom** one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved."*
6. Have **unconditional** love for others (Jn. 15:13).
Jesus said: *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."*
7. Typically do not **assert** themselves forcefully (Jn. 2:4-5).
*"And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there . . .
And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.
Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come.
His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it."*
8. Sometimes **put off** dealing with their own feelings or needs.
This is what Mary did as Jesus was persecuted, and then crucified; John as he was exiled.
She stayed at the foot of the cross "for Jesus' sake."
9. Prefer being around **people** (Jn. 19:25)
"Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene."
10. Often have keen **insight** and **discernment** especially when Spirit-filled; have excitement that goes on only in their imagination (Lk. 2:19).
"But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart."

THE DIFFERENCE GRACE MAKES

See Luke 1 for a glimpse of Mary's reflective, sentimental side.

Read 1 John for John's essay on love.

Neither Mary nor John was a push-over.

Mary had patience and fortitude to endure such a hard life, but she did it with such grace.

Mary birthed Jesus, but she still had to be saved. If anybody knew Jesus was the Christ, it was Mary.

Mary, did you know that the one you delivered will soon deliver you? Mary, did you know?

John was brother to James, dubbed by Jesus as "sons of thunder,"

yet John spoke the most of love in the entire Bible.