

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made and the Difference Grace Makes

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

II Corinthians 12:7-10



UNDERSTANDING THE UNIQUENESS OF OUR GOD-GIVEN PERSONALITIES WILL HELP US
TO UNDERSTAND OURSELVES AND TO GET ALONG BETTER WITH OTHERS.

Grace is the difference maker, and Spirit-controlled personalities are seen as listed below:

1) CRUSADERS: Paul, a CRUSADER both before and after conversion

• ***principled, purposeful, controlled, perfectionistic, energetic***

2) HELPERS: Mary, the Mother of Jesus; the Apostle John

• ***open-hearted, generous, accommodating, selfless, discerning***

3) ACHIEVERS: Saul, David, Michal, Moses, Jacob

• ***highly competent, hard working, admired, loyal, confident***

4) DREAMERS (Individualists): Eve, Joseph

• ***compassionate, creative, introspective, intuitive, supportive***

5) INVESTIGATORS: Nicodemus, Thomas, Jochebed

• ***analytical, persevering, perceptive, wise, informed, curious***

6) LOYALISTS: Peter, Mary Magdalene, Ruth

• ***loyal, likeable, practical, helpful, responsible, hyper-vigilant***

7) ADVENTURERS: Solomon, Woman at the Well

• ***fun-loving, spontaneous, imaginative, productive, confident, curious***

Fear: being corrupt

Desire: to have integrity

Fear: being unwanted

Desire: to feel loved

Fear: being unworthy

Desire: to feel valuable

Fear: being left out

Desire: to be included

Fear: being misunderstood

Desire: to be competent

Fear: being without support

Desire: to have security

Fear: being deprived, missing out

Personality #8—The Asserter (Challenger)

Bible Examples: Samson

THEIR UNIQUE PERSONALITY—AND POSSIBLY YOURS

1. Are _____ by regular opportunities to contend for the common good
Judges 13:1-5,10

God sets the stage with Samson's parents to accomplish His will in Samson's life, and then He says why He is going to give her a son.

13:5—“ . . . And he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.”

Samson is born (13:24) and as he grows, he has several opportunities to “contend for the common good.”

Notice that the Samson's mother had sound reasoning and was “all in” with God's plan (13:13-14; 13:15-23). So much of what happens in the home—good or bad—is due to the spirit of the woman.

2. Are self-confident and _____

Judges 14:1— “ . . . I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife.”

Asserters make decisions easily. Samson's first decision to go to Timnath was going to be his undoing—bad decision because that was the land of the Philistines. His next decision was to take a wife from there—another bad decision—but his mind was made up.

Knowing his vow (and upbringing), wasn't this decision so drastically out of character?
(14:4) What was God's part in what Samson did? God doesn't tell us to do wrong, but He sometimes allows it to accomplish His purpose.

3. Don't mind “getting their hands dirty” in order to _____

Judges 14:5-6—Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath and, behold, a young lion roared against him. And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

Judges 14:9—And he took thereof in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they did eat: but he told not them that he had taken the honey out of the carcase of the lion.

4. Tend to avoid _____ or allow others get close out of fear of being controlled by them

Judges 14:10ff (ironic since that's what happens)

Samson puts forth a riddle . . . the woman weeps . . . he succumbs (it's so against his nature) . . . she betrays him . . .

This isn't Delilah. You would think he would learn. Not once, but twice, he fell prey to a woman's whims. Never underestimate the influence of a woman.

It was Absalom's undoing. It was Adam's undoing. It was David's undoing. It was Solomon's undoing.

Asserters understand what has to be done, and they are good to make it happen.
It's dirty job, but somebody has to do it.

5. Tend to lack _____ or warmth if not Spirit-controlled
Judges 14:17-19, 20; 15:1-5

"The pitfall of Asserters is revenge and retaliation as their way of getting the scales of justice back in life."—Richard Rohr

"Justice and kindness are essential qualities of the nature of God Himself. They do not come down from heaven wrapped in parcels. They are expressed in and through people who walk humbly with God."
—David Prior

Asserters often appoint themselves as avengers and retaliators to balance out things. Their defense mechanism is denial. Under certain circumstances, Asserters can justify (or deny) any wrongdoing.

6. Steward their _____ to serve the weak and/or cast-offs
Judges 16:1-4ff

Asserters pull for the underdog. They have an uncanny ability to feel sorry for them or feel that they can make their life better by sympathizing with them or defending them.

The healthy versions of this personality are **big-hearted**, **merciful**, and **forbearing**; and they inspire others to be the same.

Micah 6:8—He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

7. Are often tough on themselves and on others to produce a certain _____
Judges 16:20-31

And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left.

And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.

To them, it's the end game! ***It pays to serve God!***

God is in the business of fighting against evil, and this is reflected in the Asserters.

ADDITIONAL FACTS:

- They are accepting of their weaknesses and are often able to function well with them.
- They are often likable because of their ability to compliment (though it might seem somewhat like an off-kilter compliment); they are even better at critiquing since they are so opinionated.
- They are constantly confronting the question of power. If no one else takes charge, they will.
- Their challenge is to use their strengths to contribute vitality to others rather than dominating them.

At their best: loyal, caring, positive, playful, truthful, straightforward, committed, generous, supportive

At their worst: demanding, arrogant, combative, possessive, uncompromising, confrontational, and quick to find fault