

# Fearfully and Wonderfully Made and the Difference Grace Makes

*Blessed are the peacemakers:  
for they shall be called the children of God.  
Matthew 5:9*



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:

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| 1) CRUSADERS: Paul, a CRUSADER both before and after conversion                  | <b>Fear:</b> being corrupt               |
| • <b>principled, purposeful, controlled, perfectionistic, energetic</b>          | Desire: to have integrity                |
| 2) HELPERS: Mary, the Mother of Jesus; the Apostle John                          | <b>Fear:</b> being unwanted              |
| • <b>open-hearted, generous, accommodating, selfless, discerning</b>             | Desire: to feel loved                    |
| 3) ACHIEVERS: Saul, David, Michal, Moses, Jacob                                  | <b>Fear:</b> being unworthy              |
| • <b>highly competent, hard working, admired, loyal, confident</b>               | Desire: to feel valuable                 |
| 4) DREAMERS (Individualists): Eve, Joseph  | <b>Fear:</b> being left out              |
| • <b>compassionate, creative, introspective, intuitive, supportive</b>           | Desire: to be included                   |
| 5) INVESTIGATORS: Nicodemus, Thomas, Jochebed                                    | <b>Fear:</b> being misunderstood         |
| • <b>analytical, persevering, perceptive, wise, informed, curious</b>            | Desire: to be competent                  |
| 6) LOYALISTS: Peter, Mary Magdalene, Ruth  | <b>Fear:</b> being without support       |
| • <b>loyal, likeable, practical, helpful, responsible, hyper-vigilant</b>        | Desire: to have security                 |
| 7) ADVENTURERS: Solomon, Woman at the Well                                       | <b>Fear:</b> being deprived, missing out |
| • <b>fun-loving, spontaneous, imaginative, productive, confident, curious</b>    | Desire: to be satisfied, content         |
| 8) CHALLENGERS/ASSERTERS: Samson   | <b>Fear:</b> being controlled by others  |
| • <b>loyal, caring, positive, truthful, straightforward, committed, generous</b> | Desire: to be in control, secure         |

## Personality #—The Peacemaker, the “Peaceful” Person

Bible Example: Mary of Bethany

## HER UNIQUE PERSONALITY—AND POSSIBLY YOURS

1. Accept others without \_\_\_\_\_

*John 11:1— Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.*

Other people feel that these Peacemakers are accepting of them and their differences of opinion. They think other people understand them. Perhaps this is why it was “Martha’s house” in Luke 10 and “Mary’s town” in John 11. She loved people, and they loved her. For them, life is about bringing people together and being at peace personally and relationally.

2. Are often fighters for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
*John 12:3-6*

They express harsh truths so calmly and matter of factly that it makes it easy for others to swallow what they have to say. They have an intuitive sense of how to resolve conflict and right wrongs.

While we don't see Mary actually *saying* anything, she is doing what she knows she can do to right every wrong.

3. Remain \_\_\_\_\_ at the risk of being misunderstood  
*John 11:20, 32*

All kinds of things are going on around Mary, yet she remains speechless. What were the people thinking? Even her sister called her "secretly" (John 12:28).

Have you ever said, "I don't know what's wrong with me"? Maybe you have said something or done something you shouldn't have. These people in today's lesson tend to be quiet, but they are always introspective. They have a reputation of being "everywhere and nowhere" at the same time.

These people can lose themselves in their own defense. They "retreat into inoculating activity like watching TV, playing games on their phone, checking social media, doing busy work, distracting themselves . . ." (*Fellowship Paragould: Spiritual Formation Plan*).

4. Do a good job of bearing Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ to the world  
*John 11:21, 32*

Martha and Mary both asked the same question, but He responded to them differently (in both Luke 10 and John 11). It seems that He is always **teaching** Martha and **taking up for** Mary (Luke 10:42; John 12:7). Jesus' response to Mary is more emotional. When Jesus saw her weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled; He wept. As the 17th century Welsh commentator Matthew Henry notes, "Mary added no more, as Martha did; but it appears, by what follows, that what she fell short in words she made up in tears; she said less than Martha, but wept more."

5. Are \_\_\_\_\_ to a world of conflict and pain

*John 12:1, 8, 23, 27*

It is as if Mary helped Jesus to carry His own heavy burden. How soothing her care must have been in the last days of His life!

If emotionally and spiritually healthy, she is patient, steady, receptive, relaxed, agreeable, comforting, dynamic, pro-active, imaginative, serene, and passionate.

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS:

- They are sometimes mistaken to be lazy when in reality they are busy with thoughts running through their heads.
- Because they are generally calm, if nothing is happening around them, they can suddenly fall asleep in broad daylight.
- They are tempted to belittle themselves.
- At first glance, they seem humble, but in reality they often conceal false modesty and fear of revealing themselves.
- They are easy to care for; one simply has to like them.
- Walking trails, hiking, climbing, biking, jogging, and strolling the park or beach are therapeutic for them in restoring their sense of peace and calm.
- Stopping routinely to pray re-centers them around the peaceful presence of Jesus. It is a way of calming down and remembering what is more urgent and important—a relationship with God.

HOW TO RELATE TO THIS PERSONALITY:

- Don't take things too personally
- Create rapport: Slow down and "hang out" a bit.
- Listen to them; stay peaceful.
- Avoid coming on too strong, getting impatient.
- Join in activities, including walking, exercising, cooking, eating, music, etc.
- Support them. Ask for their cooperation rather than trying to push them around.

At their best: kind, gentle, reassuring, supportive, loyal, and nonjudgmental

At their worst: spaced-out, forgetful, stubborn, obsessive, apathetic, passive-aggressive, judgmental, unassertive