



Presents

SHAPE



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WEEK 5: Personality

The Master Potter took a lump of clay in His hands. After working with it a while the clay began to take shape, and form began to become discernable. Also, the clay started to warm from being molded in His hands.

As your shape become more and more discernable to yourself and to others, know that it has been the Lord, the Master Potter, who has been molding and working on you. You have begun to practice using your spiritual gifts. You see the things motivating your heart—things that break or bring God’s heart. You are starting to see how your natural abilities are unique to you because of the other ingredients God has carefully placed within, including your **personality**: the next letter of SHAPE.

Definition: Personality: A set of distinctive traits and characteristics that form an individual’s unique character (Troy Nichols). In essence, it is your unique manner of synthesizing thoughts, information, and emotions into how you relate to others and in response to circumstances.

Where **heart** deals more with *where* or *for whom* you are to serve, **personality** involves *how* you interact and interface with others. Personality gauges the spirit in which you use your **abilities** and **spiritual gifts**.

Discussion 1: Consider the passage of scriptures to the right. Your personality is God-authored. Discuss what you know about God’s character, and what aspects He has passed to you.

Key Scriptures: Psalm 139:1-5 NLT
O Lord, you have examined my heart

and know everything about me.

2 *You know when I sit down or stand up.*

You know my thoughts even when I’m far away.

3 *You see me when I travel and when I rest at home.*

You know everything I do.

4 *You know what I am going to say*

even before I say it, Lord.

5 *You go before me and follow me.*

You place your hand of blessing on my head.

God Relates to Us: Why would the Creator of the entire universe be so intimately involved with your temperament, disposition and demeanor? *He loves you.* He loves how designed you, and wants to be involved in the best version of yourself.

“So God created human beings in His own image” (Genesis 1:27a NLT)

You are His spitting image, whether you’d like to think so or not. Because of this remarkable resemblance, His expectations are that you love Him in return, and that you love others: those who are also made in His image. He has wired you to be like Himself.

Relating to Others: When asked which of the Commandments was most important, Jesus responded, *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. The second is, Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:30-31 paraphrased).*

How you relate towards others is a direct reflection of God’s love. How are you representing Him?

He knows everything there is to know about you. But He also knows everything there is to know about the person with whom you are interacting. Sometimes you might be more outspoken and outgoing. Other times, you might be more reserved. The way you recharge determines whether you are extroverted or introverted.

Extroverts recharge by being around others, as if they were drawing energy from them. Introverts, on the other hand, recharge in isolation and solitude. It is possible for introverts to express themselves outwardly, and for extroverts to be reserved at times. The question is, what is the default when relating to others the majority of the time?

Both are acceptable. God invented both characteristics.

Look at the **Personality A** chart to the right. Use the scale to determine how you relate to others by each characteristic by circling the response.

PERSONALITY A

I relate to others by being:

Outgoing-----	x-----	Reserved
Self-expressive-----	x-----	Self-controlled
Cooperative-----	x-----	Competitive

Discussion 2: Have you ever viewed your personality—the way you relate to others—as wrong? Do you see how your personality works alongside your heart towards others?

Responding to Circumstances: Just before His arrest, trial, sentencing, death, and burial, Jesus said these words: *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33 NIV). Apostle Paul instructed, *“Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again, Rejoice!”* (Philippians 4:4 NIV).

Having a solid relationship with the Lord does not give anyone a free pass from trouble. Knowing and loving God actually makes you a prime candidate for His glory to shine through you, especially in difficulty.

A few years ago children were running around with rubber “WWJD” bracelets as a reminder to ask, “What would Jesus do?” when faced with a difficult situation. Your personality helps to determine your response to circumstances, both good and bad.

Do you take notice, when opportunities arise, how you respond? Are you more prone to seeking a leadership role, or do you follow others? Are you more spontaneous, or do you prefer a set routine? Your answers are always going to be correct for you, because they are extensions of your personality.

The **Personality B** chart below to the right shows possible characteristics. Think about different scenarios and how you might respond. Circle the appropriate response for each.

Discussion 3: God made you the way you are. How can your God-shaped personality be a blessing unto others? How can you affirm others in their personalities?

PERSONALITY B

I respond to opportunities that are:

High risk -----	x-----	Low risk
People Driven -----	x-----	Project Driven
Follow -----	x-----	Lead
Team -----	x-----	Solo
Routine -----	x-----	Variety

Closing Thought: This piece of the masterpiece has the Master’s hands all over it.