

A Different Perspective
Personality GPS – Which Personality Type Am I (1)
09-43-3
With All My Heart

Here we are again today I have my good friend Keith Henry with me on the program. Keith, if you've joined us earlier this week – has done a lot of work in understanding the different personality types that God's created in each one of us. It's something he calls 'Personality GPS' – a tool to help each one of us discover who we are so we can live out our lives to the full. Not for ourselves but for one another. That's the key difference.

Now Romans Chapter 12 Verse 2 tells us not to be squeezed into the world's mould but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. And right after that in the very next verse the Apostle Paul goes on to say that we basically need to figure out who we are – with sober judgement. Right after that he goes on to list effectively the different personality types – or motivational giftings, as some people call them, that Keith's based his work on.

So this 'Personality GPS' thing is right there in God's Word– it's not something that Keith's dreamt up. God wants you and me to understand not just who we are, but who the other people are in our lives so that we can really live have a fantastic life. Keith, have I got that right?

Keith: You have Berni. If we try and live our lives just for ourselves, that selfishness and it just won't work. We won't be fulfilled. It's only when we really look at who we've been made to be and actually follow the directions of who we're made to be, then we'll accomplish so much in life.

Berni: I don't know about you Keith, but I really love this bit in Romans Chapter 12. I think it's worth revisiting today. And again, we're using the Message translation because it just picks up particularly contemporary language in this passage that we can understand. If you want to have a look it's in Romans Chapter 12 Verse 2. Here is how it goes. Let me share it with you:

Unlike the culture around you, which is always dragging down to it's level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you and develops well-formed maturity in you. It's important that you don't misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No! God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and

by what He does for us. Not by what we are and what we do for Him.

In this way, we're all like the various parts of the human body. Each part gets it's meaning from the body as a whole. Not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and a function as a part of this body. But as a chopped off finger or a cut off toe, we wouldn't amount to much would we?

So since we find ourselves fashioned into these excellently formed and marvellously functioning parts of Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with one another or trying to be something that we aren't.

If you preach, just preach God's message, nothing else. If you help, just help don't take over. If you teach stick to your teaching. If you give encouraging guidance be careful you don't get bossy. If you're put in charge, don't manipulate. If you're called to give aid to people in distress keep your eyes open and be quick to respond. If you work with the disadvantaged don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face.

Keith, it's powerful stuff, isn't it. God through Paul, is basically saying to us 'For goodness sake figure out who you are and get on with being who I made you to be'. Isn't this what this is saying?

Keith: God is certainly saying that. And what a useless way to live our lives if it's all about me. We're never going to be happy yet all the personality systems in the world are produced to actually show us who we are selfishly.

Berni: OK. That means you get to be a cut off finger and I get to be a cut off toe. Yippee!

Keith: Yes, so how can we do anything together or achieve anything together or achieve a lot. It's all about me and what I want is not what you want.

Berni: But the bit that really leaps out here for me is that Romans Chapter 12 Verse 5 it says: "*Each of us finds our meaning and our function as a part of this body*". So I'm only useful as a leader when I'm around you. You're only useful as an encourager when you're around me.

Keith: That's right. And here we are together doing this radio program.

Berni: Absolutely. And writing a book together which we'll talk about another time. OK Keith today we're moving on to talk about the people who see the world and experience the world and contribute to life more through their emotions than say through their mind and their will. The personality types that come from the heart. Now just recap for me this Personality GPS thing is a tool that's based on Romans Chapter 12. It's a tool for understanding ourselves and other people God's way, as you say. How does it work again?

Keith: It's really simple Berni. We use the clock face. In Romans Chapter 12 it talks about seven personality types which we develop into nine as we explained earlier this week. Now, we divide those into four quadrants. So for instance, we looked yesterday at 12 o'clock to 3 o'clock and that was the holistic type person. Today we're looking at the emotional type person, the heart people and they are between 3 o'clock and 6 o'clock.

Berni: So, it's a really simple clock face. We looked at those holistic people yesterday. Let's go now to look at these heart people, these emotional people. I guess we all know people who come at the world through their emotions. But tell me how do I know if I am one of those personality types that lives in this quadrant from 3 o'clock to 6 o'clock – the heart people? How do I know?

Keith: Well, these are the 'people' people. They are relationship people. It's all about feelings. They have strong feelings for others and also for themselves. For instance, they'd look at personal meaning in any decisions that are made. How will that affect me? How will that affect others? They're good at listening. They won't tell you what do, they'll listen, they'll empathise with you. So they're real feeling emotionally and heart people.

Berni: So you said there are two personality types in this quadrant.

Keith: One at 4 o'clock that's the carer

Berni: And one at 5 o'clock.

Keith: That's the giver.

Berni: Tell me a little bit about these two quickly.

Keith: The carer is sensitive to people's feelings. They're the one's if your hurting they'll look after you. They will empathise with you. And the 5 o'clock is the giver. Now these people are sensitive to peoples needs, their physical needs. If they see anything that you need they're the ones that will do it for you.

Berni: It's pretty obvious we need these emotional people around. For people like me, emotional people can be a bit frustrating because they come at the world from their emotions whereas I don't. But if we didn't have them around it would be a pretty cruel old world, wouldn't it?

Keith: Yes, it would be a cold world wouldn't it? We need the warmth that they generate.

Berni: Yesterday when we looked at the holistic people we used that example of lets imagine we are going on a long car ride, a big long car ride. How would one of these heart people approach a big long car ride?

Keith: Well, they're very interesting. What they're going to do is look at the well-being of everybody in the car. So they'll say. I'll bring some drinks for us, because you might get thirsty on the way. I'll get some snacks in case you get hungry. Maybe I'll bring along some games we can play. I'll bring along some tapes and what I'll do, I'll put it all at my feet on the floor so that anything anybody needs at any time I can go to it straight away.

Berni: That's exactly what my wife does. Exactly when we go on a car drive. I keep saying to her, 'Why do you put all this stuff at your feet? Why don't you put it on the back seat.' I guess because she wants to help.

Keith: She wants to help right then and there.

Berni: That is awesome stuff. So Keith, just to wrap up very quickly. What do you think the biggest mistake the rest of us can make when we're dealing with these heart people.

Keith: To try and bully them and try to pressure them. Because they are interested in feelings. They aren't about tasks and projects, they're about you.

Berni: That's good stuff. Thanks Keith.

Keith: Thanks

Berni.