

A Different Perspective
Personality GPS – Which Personality Type Am I? (1)
09-43-2
With All My Soul

It's Tuesday and here we are again. I have my good friend Keith Henry with me on the program. Keith has done a lot of work understanding the different personality types that God has created in each one of us. I mean blind Freddy can see that we're all different – some people are natural born leaders and others are natural born encouragers.

Problem is unless we really understand which one of those God created us to be – well, how can we ever live our lives out to the full.

And that's where Keith's done a lot of work to understand the personality types that God talks about in Romans Chapter 12 in the New Testament – and he's produced this thing he's called 'Personality GPS'. A way I guess of understanding who we are – not based on some worldly system, but based on what God has to say. Based on discovering our meaning and our purpose through our relationship with God and with other people.

This is about discovering who we are so that we can participate in God's nature – so we can be restored back into God's image. It's about transformation - that's right isn't it Keith ?

Keith: That's right Berni. Fulfilment is what happens when we're living out who God made us to be. For other people, for Him not for ourselves.

Berni: Now for today and rest of the week we're going to kick this off by discovering that each one of us tends to see life and experience life through a different aspect of who God's made us to be. Can you explain that to us Keith.

Keith: That's so important Berni. We don't realise how differently we all see the world. We kind of know that some people are more emotional, some people are more logical or rational and we know that the emotional person sees things differently from the rational person. Actually Jesus identified four different parts of who we are. And each one of us tends to see the world more through one of those than the other.

Berni: Jesus identified four? Are you saying this stuff is in the Bible?

Keith: Have a listen to this.

You shall love the Lord your God with your heart with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbour as yourself.

Our heart - that's our emotions; our strength - that's our will; our mind - that's the rational, reasoning part of us; and our soul - well that's all of us, all three the heart the will and the mind together. Some people refer to that as our mind, our will and our emotions - that's the soul.

Berni: So that comes from Luke Chapter 10 and Verse 27. So help us understand this. In this tool that you've developed 'The Personality GPS' which is based on God's Word, how do we make sense of that? How do we understand these four different parts that we come from.

Keith: Well remember Berni I'm not very spatial. It's so easy for me to get lost. That's why I've used a simple clock face. Something that we can all relate to easily. Now there's nine personality types based on those listed in Romans Chapter 12. And we spread them all around the clock face but like ones are grouped together. And we're going to look first at those between 12 o'clock and 3 o'clock. These are the **holistic people**. They actually are the big picture people, the big thinkers. They range from the first quadrant from 12 o'clock to 3 o'clock. The second quadrant from 3 o'clock to 6 o'clock are the **heart people**. These are the personality types who see and experience the world mostly through their emotions and feelings. The personality **types that use their minds**, now they are the 6 o'clock to 9 o'clock people. They come from detail and analysis. And finally the personality types from 9 o'clock to 12 o'clock. These are **willed type**. These are the strong people. The strong willed.

Berni: Yes, I like this clock face idea because it's easy for us to sit here and talk about it and it becomes abstract and we list all the personality types. But let me go through it again and make sure I've got it. So the way you've done it is with the clock face and from the first quadrant from 12 o'clock to 3 o'clock these are the holistic bigger thinkers, the party animals if you like. Their the soul people. Right?

Keith: Right

Berni: Then from 3 o'clock to 6 o'clock you've got a couple of personality types in there and they're the heart people. They're the people that come at the world through their emotions and feelings. From 6 o'clock to 9 o'clock they're the detail people, the thinkers, the mind people. Yes?

Keith: Yes

Berni: Then from 9 o'clock to 12 o'clock, we're back up the top again, They're the strong willed people, the leader types.

Keith: Full of action. They get things done.

Berni: I want you to tell us about the first group of people. Because the other three quadrants we are going to look at over the next few days. I want to come and have a look at the soul people, these big picture people. Tell me how I know that I'm in that quadrant.

Keith: Well, these as you said are the big picture people. They are enthusiastic, they're exciting. They're very socially orientated. They're the life of the party generally.

Berni: Not quiet and shy like me. Keep going. Sorry.

Keith: So what they're good at, and really strong at is brainstorming. If you want some new ideas and out of the square thinking these are the big picture people. They are innovative, enthusiastic and very encouraging type people.

Berni: OK. So I always like to pick something really tangible as an example. And one of the things that I think a lot of us have been through in life is going on a long car drive. I mean, here in Australia we can drive for days and days and days and still be in the middle of nowhere. Let's imagine that we're going on a long car trip, right?

Keith: Yes.

Berni: And there's one of each of the four people from those four quadrants in the car, tell me about the 'soul' person. How is the 'soul' person going to approach this long car trip?

Keith: Well, they're going to have fun. This is a journey. This is an exciting experience they're all going to do. They'll get up in the morning when they're ready, they'll take off. No particular time. And they'll stop on the way and find some exciting things to do. They might me hot so they'll go for a swim. And then with a ten hour

drive they won't get there today because that's too hard. So what they'll do, they'll find a nice place to stay. They'll find some accommodation and get there the following day. Nothing's a rush it's all going to be fun.

Berni: That's a lot different to the way I would handle it. But we'll talk about that another day. So tell me, you've got three personality types in this quadrant. Just quickly give me each of those three because we are going to look at them in more detail next week.

Keith: Well first of all there's the encourager and we break the encourager up into two types.

Berni: Because the encourager is the one that comes from Romans Chapter 12, right?

Keith: Right. The **first one is the achieving encourager** because they like to achieve. They set goals and they achieve things. They're inspirational. Then the **second type is the social encourager**. That is the life of the party. They're the entertainers. And the **third group is the teacher**. Now the teacher is not as extrovert but they're still the optimist and they like having the fun. But they're very relationship orientated.

Berni: So let me get this right. **First quadrant - 1 o'clock is the achieving encourager, 2 o'clock is the social encourager and 3 o'clock is the teacher**. And as I understand it, next week on the program we're going to have one of each of those personality types, real people, come into the studio and tell us about their lives.

Keith: And that will be interesting.

Berni: Yes, I'm really, really looking forward to that. It's awesome stuff. Now Keith with these people who are in this first quadrant. Why do we need them? I mean what would you and I miss out on if we didn't have them around.

Keith: These are the people who have the saying "To boldly go where they've never been before".

Berni: Ah, Startreck episode 1.

Keith: They don't know what's ahead but isn't it going to be exciting to find out.

Berni: So why do we need them though? What's their value to me?

Keith: Well, the value is that they don't mind taking risks and they want to enjoy life so they take you out of the normal living, the boring, normal boundaries that you're enticed in. And they set you free to experience life, all that it has. And in business they all set you free to look at innovative ideas. Without them nothing would happen.

Berni: Without them, I guess we are stuck in the same old, same old again.

Keith: We are.

Berni: That can be exciting but it can be a bit frustrating too. Is that right Keith?

Keith: That's right.