"Building A House and Home"
“Personality, Family, & Friends In A Marriage”
Session Four

Review: Personality/Relating Style & Family/Friends Sections

Discussion:
1. How do you deal with stress? Stewer or a spewer? Hoarder or Pitcher?
2. How do you treat your father and mother?

I. Personality

Illustration: Psychiatric Hotline

"Welcome to the Psychiatric Hotline!
If you are obsessive-compulsive, please press 1 ... repeatedly.
If you are co-dependent, please ask someone else to press 2.
If you have multiple personalities, please press 3, 4, 5, and 6.
If you are paranoid-delusional, you know that we know who you are and what you want. Just stay on the phone line and we will tell you what you want.
If you are a schizophrenic, listen carefully and a little voice will tell you which number to press.
If you are a manic-depressive, it doesn't matter which number you press: no one will answer.
If you are delusional and occasionally hallucinate, please be aware that the thing you are holding on the side of your head is alive and about to bite your ear off."

Activity: Personality Inventory (“Homes Of Honor” by Smalley & Trent)

DISC profile is a simple test that will yield tremendous insight into how you process decisions and what your natural tendencies may be. (Note Fast/Slow & People/Task) DISC & PLUS Diagrams

- The D (Dominant; Lion; Choleric; Powerful; Extrovert; Doer; Optimist) person is a hard-charging driver that is task-oriented and first looks to problems. (Paul, Peter, Martha)

  “Without wise leadership, a nation is in trouble; but with good counselors there is safety.”
  Proverbs 11:14 (TLB)

- The I (Influencing; Otter; Sanguine; Popular; Extrovert; Talker; Optimist) person is people-oriented, fun, outgoing, and generally concerned about people-pleasing, so they first look to people. (Paul or Peter)

  “A cheerful heart does good like medicine, but a broken spirit makes one sick.”
  Proverbs 17:22 (TLB)

- The S (Stable; Golden Retriever; Phlegmatic; Peaceful; Introvert; Watcher; Pessimist) person is amiable, loyal, does not like conflict, and is concerned about pace. (Barnabas, Mary, John)

  “Gentle words cause life and health; griping brings discouragement.”
  Proverbs 15:4 (TLB)
• The C (Compliant; Beaver; Melancholy; Perfectionist; Introvert; Thinker; Pessimist) person is analytical, loves detail, factual, can seem rigid, and loves procedures. (Luke)

“A sensible man watches for problems ahead and prepares to meet them.
The simpleton never looks and suffers the consequences.”

Proverbs 27:12 (TLB)

Personality Inventory Evaluations …

“If you refuse criticism, you will end in poverty and disgrace;
if you accept criticism, you are on the road to fame.”

Proverbs 13:18 (TLB)

1. With your personality type, what strengths do you see in yourself?

2. With your personality type, what weaknesses do you see in yourself?

3. Which of the personality traits do you like best in your spouse? Why?

4. Which of the personality traits do you like least in your spouse? Why?

5. What qualities of the other personality types would you like to develop?

6. What can you do to affirm and take advantage of your spouse’s unique personality? How can you blend your strengths with his or hers?

7. List three recurring struggles you face as a couple that are results of your personality differences …

   1. 
   2. 
   3. 
8. What are some specific ways in which you can be more understanding and tolerant of your spouse’s personality when working through one of the struggles you named?

Four Kinds of People …

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(Beavers gone bad; learn to have fun; chill out)
(Me, Lions, Amie had to teach me to play)
(Otters gone bad; grow up; take responsibility)
(Golden Retrievers; can be viewed as lazy)

Stages In Our Differences (Ray Linder, “What Will I Do With My Money?”)

1. Fascination
2. Irritation
3. Toleration
4. Appreciation
5. Celebration – receiving vs. resisting each other’s gifts

“Your temperament mixes with your God-given spiritual gifts.

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. Romans 12:3-8 (NIV)

Discussion: What is your spiritual gift? What gift do you see in your spouse? What influence do these gifts have in your relationship?

Your temperament affects your wants, needs, and money decisions.

Discussion: Based on your personality inventories, what changes do you need to make with regard to how you handle the stuff God has given you?

Your temperament impacts career path and job satisfaction.

Discussion: Based on your personality inventory, are you working in your strengths zone?

Your temperament influences how you raise your children/grandchildren.

Discussion: How is your personality expressed in the way you raised your children or are raising your children/grandchildren? What temperament are your kids? (Joshua – GR & Jenna – Lion)
Many times one is the dreamer (rarely will it be the beavers). If you’re married to someone who loves to dream and has grand visions of what can be, how do you respond?

(Wow vs. How)

If you don’t listen to the dreams of your spouse, someone else will. They want the luxury of dreaming. Not that all of their dreams will even come to fruition. If the dream moves into desire then you’d better pay special attention to it.

*Your temperament is reflected in how you perceive life ...*

*Cup ½ Full (Lions & Otters) vs. Cup ½ Empty (Beavers & Golden Retrievers)*

Otters … curb their tongues, control their egos, cultivate their memories, concern themselves with others and count the cost.

Beavers … fill them with hope, make them happy, help them to look for the positives, grant them a tough outer skin, expose their insecurities, help them to relax their standards.

Golden Retrievers … be enthusiastic, try something new, accept responsibility, communicate feelings, make decisions, learn to say no.

Lions … open their minds and help them examine their weaknesses, admit faults, learn to apologize, seek forgiveness, learn to relax, take pressure off of others, respond to other leadership, develop patience, stop manipulating, don’t argue & tone things down.

**II. Family**

*Question:* Where will you go for the holidays?

*Question:* Who will you live closer to, your family or your spouse's family?

*Question:* What boundaries have you set regarding parental involvement in your marriage?

*Question:* How will your parenting styles be similar to that of your parents? How will they be different?

*Question:* What is your philosophy of discipline?

*Note:* Please come and see me again when you decide to begin your family!
### III. Friends

**Question:** Do your closest friends approve of your marriage? Why or why not?

**Question:** How do you think marriage will change the relationships you have with your closest friends?

**Resources:**
- "Personality Plus" (Florence Littauer)
- "Breakthrough Parenting" (John Maxwell)
- "Successful Christian Parenting" (John MacArthur)
- "The Blessing" (Gary Smalley & John Trent)

Wedding Plans: Reception

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Next Appointment: ____________________________________________________________