

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference
Part 6
Roger Miller
July 11, 2010

We're actually in part six of a series we've been doing called "Shaped to Make a Difference." We're looking at the five ways that God wired you, how He shaped you. He created and made you for His purposes on this planet. There are five things that make you *you*. SHAPE. S, your Spiritual gifts, how God has gifted you, what you're gifted to do. Your Heart, that's the H, what do you love to do. A, your abilities, the natural things you're good at. P is your personality. E is your experiences. If you've missed any of the messages in this series, see Kevin or the website and you can get caught up. Because This material is very important for who you marry, where you go to school, what careers you in life. A lot of implications. God doesn't want you wasting your life on something you aren't shaped to do. That leads to frustration and a lack of fulfillment.

Today, we're going to look at Personality. The Bible says in Mark 12:30, "*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.*" This is called the Great Commandment. One day a guy asked Jesus, "Lord,

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

summarize the whole Bible for me.” He goes, “Ok this is it. If you don’t get anything else, get this one. The number one purpose of your life is: love God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength. There are other purposes for your life but that’s number one. That’s the most important thing.” God did not put you on this planet just to mark things off your to do list. He put you here to learn to love Him with all your heart and soul and mind and strength. How do you do that? What’s the difference between your heart and your soul? What’s the difference between your soul and your strength? How do you do that?

One of the ways you can look at this is through the lens of personality. This is the Great Commandment. And notice, you’re commanded to do all four. You’re to love God with your heart, with your soul, with your mind, and your strength. But the reality is – every one of us here focuses on one of those ways more than the other. You tend to be a heart person or a soul person or a mind person or a strength person. That is your God-given personality.

God wants you to love Him, to worship Him, and to serve Him

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

with your personality. God doesn't want you to worship like somebody else. He doesn't want you to serve Him like somebody else. He wants you to do it with the personality He gave you. So you don't have to worship God the way somebody else does it. You do it with your heart or your soul or your mind or your strength. There are actually heart people, soul people, mind people, strength people. What's the difference? That's what we're going to talk about today.

Another way to say this is – love God with all your talk, and all your feelings, and all your thinking, and all of your acting.

Talking, feeling, thinking and acting. It's another way of saying the exact same thing. God shaped you primarily to be either a talker or a feeler or a thinker or a doer.

Heart people are good at talking. We'll explain the connection between heart and words. They're verbal. They tend to be very verbal. They're good at discussions. They're good at talking. They're good at putting words together.

Soul people tend to be good at feeling. They tend to be not verbal, but emotional, and they feel things very deeply, and they

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY **Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5**

tend to be more in touch with their emotions than the rest of us. Mind people are good at thinking. They tend to be more mental, not verbal or emotional, but mental. They can analyze things. Strength people tend to be good at doing. They're more physical. They're more practical. They do it. They're not so much thinking or feeling, or even talking, but more of a doer.

You're a blend of all of these. There's a little bit of each of these in you. You are to be that way. You're a combo. You're a mix. You're a stew. But you primarily act in one of these ways more than the other. We're going to look at how God wants you to worship and serve and share and know Him by the way He shaped you. And you don't have to be somebody you're not. In fact the Bible says this. In Romans 12 it says, "*Love from the center of who you are. Don't fake it.*" If you're not a feeler, don't fake it. If you're not a thinker, don't fake it. If you're not a talker, don't fake it. If you're not a doer, don't fake it. Be who God made you to be.

Today we're going to look at each of the four personalities. We're going to look at the purpose of each of these personalities; they're all needed in the world. We're going to look at the

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

weakness of these four personalities. And we're going to look at a warning from God about each of these four personalities.

Let's take a survey. Let's see which one you think you are. Am I talker? A feeler? A thinker? Or a doer? I want everybody to vote on this. If the person next to you doesn't vote, you get to vote for them. Point to them, and raise your hand. Nobody gets out of this one. How many would say, "I'm pretty verbal. I'm a talker. I like to talk." How many of you would say, "I don't think I'm so much a talker, but I'm a feeler. I'm more emotional. I feel things deeply." How many of you would say, "Forget those two. I'm a thinker. I think I'm more rational. I tend to not pay attention to my emotions." How many of you would say, "Forget all those guys. I'm a doer. Let's get 'er done."

Let's look at the four personalities.

1. The first style, "*Love God with all your heart,*" refers to Talkers. Talkers are people who love God with their heart. What's the connection here? The Bible, over and over, makes a direct connection between your heart and your mouth. What you have in your heart and what you say. For instance, if I have a

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

problem with cussing, swearing, profanity, that's not a problem with my mouth. That's a problem in my heart. If I tend to judge people and be critical and say sarcastic things, that's not a problem in my mouth, that's a problem in my heart. If I tend to exaggerate things and shade the truth, that's not a problem with my mouth, that's a problem in my heart. If I tend to say things that I think people want me to say, rather than what I really need to say, that's not a problem with my mouth, that's a problem in my heart. That make sense? What you say has a direct connection to your heart.

Jesus said this. *"The words that come out of your mouth come from your heart."* There's a direct heart-mouth connection.

Heart people can't help but speak. *"My mouth shouts His praises because my heart is filled with joy."* Whatever your heart is filled with is going to come out of your mouth. If you're filled with anger, anger is going to come out of your mouth. If you're filled with loneliness, loneliness is going to come out of your mouth. If your heart is filled with depression, it's going to come out of your mouth. If your heart is filled with joy, that's going to come out of your mouth. There's definite heart-mouth connection. Talkers

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

are people who worship God from their heart. They tend to be verbal people.

Heart people have a real hard time being quiet. It says in the Bible, *"I shouted the praise of God because my heart was filled."*

When your heart is filled, and you're a heart person, you've got to let it out. You've got to tell other people. Heart people love to tell stories. Talkers love to tell stories. They love to sit and converse, especially heart to heart conversations. So, if you're a talker, you know exactly what I'm talking about. You get pleasure out of conversation. You enjoy talking.

The downside of it is: talkers aren't very good at keeping secrets. If it's in their heart, it's going to come out. They're going to talk, and sometimes that can actually be a little gossip. But, really, it can be used in a positive way too. In Psalm 40, David says, *"I have not kept this good news hidden in my heart. Instead I have talked about it. [See the connection? Heart and talk?] I've talked about Your faithfulness and saving power; I have told everyone... [That's a mark of a talker. They tell everyone!] I've told everyone of Your unfailing love and faithfulness."*

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

What is the purpose of this first personality – Talkers? The purpose of talkers is the world needs *communication*.

We need people who are communicators. We need people who can lead discussions. We need people who can verbalize what all the rest of us feel. A lot of times I've been up here speaking, and I say something, and you go, "I've felt that way. I just didn't know how to say it." We need people who can verbalize what a lot of us are feeling. We need teachers, and we need counselors, and we need coaches who can teach us and direct us. We need comedians. We need preachers. We need all of these kind of people who are built on verbal skills who are able to move the world forward.

If you're a talker – and about one fourth of us are this personality – talkers – then I would encourage you to use your personality for good. Use it for good! Use the ability to talk in a positive way.

There are enormous benefits to talkers. Let me give you a couple of them. They're here in the book of Proverbs, which, by the way, if you're a talker, you should read the book of Proverbs over

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

and over and over. It's got good advice for your personality. Proverbs 12 says, "*The words of the wise bring healing.*" The right kind of words at the right time can heal a broken heart. It can restore, it can cure, it can encourage, it can develop, and it can build. I want to challenge you, if you're a talker, use your words and say, "Every time I speak, it's going to build somebody up. Not tear them down but build them up. I'm a talker. I admit it. It's the way God wired me to be, and every time I talk, I'm going to build somebody up, not tear them down."

Proverbs 14:3, "*The words of the wise keep people out of trouble.*" You should use your ability to verbalize to guide, direct, and point the rest of us in the right direction. "*A person's words can be a source of wisdom. Deep as the ocean, fresh as a flowing stream.*" If you're a person who is a talker, God says, "I want the words that come out of your heart to be as fresh as a stream. I want you to benefit people, to bless people."

What are the weaknesses of this personality? What are the weaknesses of *talkers*?

There's a couple of major weaknesses of talkers. One of them is

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

obvious – the more you talk, you’re going to say the wrong thing eventually. That’s just the odds. If you don’t say much, you don’t have as many possibilities to mess up. But the Bible says in Proverbs 10, *“The more you talk, the more likely you are to sin.”* In the King James it says, *“In a multitude off words, there is sin.”* In other words, you’re going to eventually say the wrong thing, or you’re going to say the right thing at the wrong time or to the wrong person. If you’re talking all the time, be aware that this is not only your greatest strength, it is also your greatest weakness. That’s true of all four personalities.

The other thing is that God says it reveals insecurity. When I have to talk all the time, it reveals insecurity. A lot of people get very, very uncomfortable with silence. So when they’re out on a date, or they’re sitting in a meeting, or somebody’s over for dinner, or whatever – if the conversation stops, they get very nervous with silence.

The Bible says this, *“Those who are sure of themselves do not talk all the time.”* If you’re a confident person, you don’t have to talk all the time. You don’t have to fill the gaps. A lot of times, you get in one of those situations that’s quiet, and you’re just

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

blabbering. You're not saying anything, you're making a fool of yourself.

So here's God's warning to Talkers –

God's warning is this: you also have to act. You can't just talk, you have to act on what you say. Proverbs 14:23, "*Get to work and you'll earn a living. If you just sit around talking, you'll be poor.*" That's pretty good advice. It's saying you've just got to move ahead. Some people never get past the discussion stage.

What are you doing with your life? "I'm talking about doing this." How long have you been talking about it? "Three years." When are you going to stop talking and start doing? "I'm aiming to." How long have you been talking about it? "A long time." When are you going to stop aiming and pull the trigger?

What is it that you've been talking about doing, maybe for weeks you've been talking about it, maybe for months? Maybe you're been talking about doing this for years, and you've never done it.

You need to move ahead. Do it. Don't just talk about it. Do it!

Every parent knows that sometimes it takes more than words to make a point. Proverbs 29:19,

"Sometimes mere words are not enough – discipline is needed."

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

Sometimes you have to say, "Words are not enough; I have to act." Talk is just not enough.

One of the quickest ways to understand personality is to look at music. We all like different kinds of music. If there's five people in your family, they like five different kinds of music. Why? Because you've got five different personalities. God likes every kind of music in the world. You don't. I don't. But He does. That's why He allows it to be created. God was the creator of all of it. You don't like it because it doesn't connect to your personality. But even in worship when we sing a song here, somebody goes, "That really spoke to me," but another will say, "That didn't touch me at all." Why? Because of our personality.

I know some of you, you like to come late to church so you can skip the music. That is a bad mistake for your heart. Your heart needs music. I actually know a counselor, a psychologist that when people come to him for counseling, when they're depressed, the first question he asks is "Do you sing the songs in the church you go to?" He said almost all of them say no. He says, "My first assignment to people who are depressed is 'You sing every song in your church for the next four weeks, and let's see what happens.'" Why? Because you need the emotional release that comes from singing. You're more than just a mind. You're also a heart. You need to sing. Impression without expression leads to depression. So you need to sing in worship. You were wired to worship in music.

You say, "But I can't sing." The Bible just says, "*Make a joyful noise.*" Anybody can do that. Some of you, I've heard you. You're prison singers. You're always behind a few bars, and you never have the right key. You couldn't carry a tune in a baggie if you had to. Your voice really needs to be cultivated – plowed under, actually! But it doesn't say it needs to be beautiful, it says make a joyful noise. Even pigs do that when they're rooting around for food. You need, for your own emotional health, for your heart, you need to sing these songs.

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

This, by the way, is why we have venues. It takes all kinds of music to touch all kinds of personalities. You might experiment. I would encourage you to try every one of the venues here at Saddleback. We've got loud venues for people who like loud music. We've got soft venues for people who like soft music. We've got traditional venues for people who like hymns. We've got reggae island music, and we've got rock music. We've got all kinds of different styles of music – gospel, praise, choir if you like choirs. All the different kind of things. Try them out.

Which one's right? The one that is best for you. That's why we do so many venues. Don't just feel like this is the only place I've got. You'll hear the exact same message in any of the venues. It really is what's best for your personality.

Some of you say, I've got a friend who would come, but they don't like big churches. We meet in little venues all over on this campus. You can bring them to that.

The first personality – talkers – they love God with all their *heart*.

2. The second kind is what I call Feelers.

Feelers are those who love God with their souls. What does that mean? The word "soul" in the Bible is used many different ways. But most of the time, it's used as a synonym for emotions. In fact, in the book of Psalms, it's almost always used as a synonym for emotions – my soul or my emotions.

The reason you have emotions is because God made you in His image. God is an emotional God. God has feelings. Did you know that? God gets angry. God gets happy. God gets sad. The reason why you have emotions is you were made in God's image. He gave you the ability to have emotions – animals don't have all those different kinds. Humans have hundreds of different kinds of emotions. Most of the time "soul" means your emotions.

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY

Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

In the book of Psalms – which, by the way, if you are a soul type person, you're a feeler, Psalms is your favorite book of the Bible. Every emotion known to man is in that book. The Bible talks about a downcast soul, a disturbed soul, a satisfied soul, a yearning soul, a troubled and forlorn soul, a joyful soul. It talks about a bitter soul, a thirsty soul, a hungry soul, a rejoicing soul, a delighted soul, a longing soul. Can you hear the passion in these words? Soul people feel their emotions. They're very in touch with their emotions.

Some people, they're not in touch with their emotions, but people who are feelers (just as talkers are in touch with their words – they're very verbal)... feelers are in touch with their soul, and they're very emotional. In fact, they have a hard time hiding their emotions. Often they think they're doing a good job of hiding it, but you can pretty much tell a feeler because it shows in their body language. They're very passionate people.

When it comes to worship, to loving God, they get passionate about that once they understand the value of it. The Bible says in Psalm 42, "*As the deer pants for streams of water...*" Imagine there's a deer who's been thirsty all day, dying of thirst, comes up to a bubbling brook, and it's panting for the water, "I'm so thirsty!" "*As a deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for You, O God.*" That verse is written by a feeler. If you like the song "This is the air I breathe, I'm desperate for You," you're a feeler. A thinker while they're singing, "This is the air I breathe," is going, "I don't get it. Of course we've got air. That's a no-brainer! I don't get it." A feeler's got their eyes closed singing, "This is the air I breathe," and they are so into it. It's just different personalities. God doesn't expect everybody to get into every single song. That's okay. But we need feelers in the world.

Why do we need feelers? Because we need more than communication. We need *compassion*.

The purpose of God putting feelers in the world is because God is a passionate, compassionate God. These people represent that part of God's personality. We need people in the world who

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

deeply care and care deeply about issues. Care deeply about knowing God and helping others and can empathize and sympathize with the pain and the problems of others.

A feeler is a people person. They're the best people persons of all because everybody likes them. A feeler is often very popular because they can understand what you're going through. You go up to a talker and say, "I'm having a bad day!" – they'll give you an hour of counseling. You go up to a thinker and say, "I'm having a bad day." – they'll analyze it for you. You go up to a doer and say, "I'm having a bad day," and they'll say, "Get over it!" But you go up to a feeler and they'll go, "I understand where you're coming from. Been there. Know that feeling." We like feelers because we feel understood by them. They relate. They understand. We feel, "Somebody on this planet understands how I'm feeling."

The Bible says all of us are to love God all four ways. We're to manifest all four. The Bible says in Ephesians 4, "*Be kind and compassionate to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another just as God through Christ has forgiven you.*" God says, I've been tenderhearted to you, I've been kind to you, I've been loving and forgiving to you. I want you to do the same with others. We're all to do that.

Are there weaknesses in this personality?

Yes. Just like talkers can over talk and never get anything done, but just talk about it. Feelers will be more tempted by their feelings than the rest of us. They're more tempted by emotions than the rest of us. If you're a feeler you have a tendency to be manipulated by your moods. You will tend to say, "I want to do this because I feel like it, or I don't want to do it because I don't feel like it." You can be controlled by an ocean of emotion.

The problem with that is feelings sometimes lie. Just because you feel it... You can be discouraged and saying "All the world is going to hell!" – when it's not really. Or you're saying, "Everything's bad in my life," but it's not really. But if you feel

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

that way, you think it's true. Sometimes what you feel like doing is not always the right thing. Sometimes what you don't feel like doing is the right thing. I've found that if the only time I do something right is when I feel like doing it, the devil makes sure I never feel like doing it. You're going to be tempted in the areas of emotion. "It feels so good, how can it be wrong? If loving you is wrong, I don't want to be right." That was written by a feeler! You just have to be aware.

Everybody's tempted. Thinkers have their temptation, doers have their temptation, talkers have their temptation, feelers have their temptation. Nothing tempts you until it hooks your emotion. If it doesn't get your emotion involved, you're not tempted. You can look at something and say, "That doesn't tempt me!" But once it keys into an emotion, you're hooked.

You're going to be tempted the rest of your life. The Bible says this in 1 Peter 2, "*Since your real home is in heaven, [in other words you're not going to spend forever on this planet] keep away from the evil pleasures of this world. They're not for you, for they fight against your very soul.*" They fight against your soul – your emotions. Just keep away from them. Don't always give into them. Don't do that.

What's the warning to Feelers?

The warning to Feelers is this: You must let God lead you. The Bible says this in Galatians 5:15, "*Don't be led by your emotions, but be led by the Spirit. Let the Spirit direct your lives, and you will not satisfy [you won't give into] the desires [the lusts] of the human nature.*"

We all have desires. But not all of them are good desires. Not every desire you have is a good one. You've got some good ones, and you've got some bad ones. You're going to give into your desires unless you let the Spirit lead your life. You'll either be controlled by your feelings or by God's Spirit. When you say, "I let God's Spirit lead me," that doesn't mean you don't have feelings. It just means you don't give into them. A lot of people

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

think “If I feel it, I’ll do it. Once I become a Christian, God will take away all my feelings for bad.” No, He doesn’t. You will have those feelings the rest of your life. But a follower of Christ is not someone who has no feelings. A follower of Christ is someone who doesn’t obey the wrong ones. Doesn’t give in, doesn’t get addicted to, doesn’t yield to, doesn’t let the negative or the wrong feelings control you. It doesn’t say you’re not tempted. It says you won’t satisfy, you won’t give in.

It’s interesting that in worship, feelers often close their eyes. I don’t know if you’ve noticed this. There’s nothing wrong with that. In fact it’s a good thing; if it helps you focus on God, it’s fine to close your eyes. Feelers use their bodies. They’ll raise their hands. It’s like at a ball game. People get excited! That’s fine. You see it in their faces. The Bible says that when you’re worshiping God, what’s all around you becomes irrelevant. You’re not paying attention to how somebody else looks or how even you look. You’re focused on God.

Many of you know a Saddleback member named Ernie who was the creator and voice of “Psalty” the singing songbook character which created the entire Kids Praise albums series that sold over six million copies around the world. Debbie and Ernie are members here at Saddleback. My kids grew up on these things, and now my grandkids are growing up on these songs, these videos. Ernie wrote me this letter this week –

“Dear Rick,
Years ago when I became a new believer, I was an entertainer in Las Vegas. I was Pat Boone’s backup singer. Vegas had been an exciting fun environment that I loved. But now, as a new follower of Christ, I found myself suddenly bored with it all. Standing on stage one night during one of Pat’s secular hits, I began a dialogue with God. ‘Lord, I’m so bored. I wish I could be back in Orange County where You are.’ As the dialogue continued, I became aware of the awesome presence of God. It was as if heaven opened up, and buckets of God’s love and Spirit were poured down on me. On that stage the crowd heard me singing Pat’s song *April Love*. But inside, I

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY

Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

was worshipping Jesus with all my heart. At that point, the words didn't even matter. The boredom went right out the door. Then the Lord whispered these words: 'Singing Christian songs has nothing to do with worshiping God. Worship is the attitude of our heart and our soul when we are connected in fellowship with God.' It's funny how God put me in a secular situation in Vegas to teach me the real meaning of worship. That lesson became the base of the entire Psalty album series. In the first album, Psalty teaches you can sing Christian songs until you're blue in the face, but if it's not from your heart and soul, it's not really praise. Since He made each of us different, that means worship is expressed in many different ways. Worship not only needs to be from the heart and soul. It must be totally focused on God, not us. Or how we feel or how we look or how we act at that moment. All those thoughts are ignored at the moment of true worship."

Regardless of your personality, God wants you to worship Him with your soul, with your emotions.

3. The third personality are the Thinkers.

Talkers love God with their hearts. Feelers love God with their souls. Thinkers love God with their minds. Did you know that you can love God with your intellect? Did you know that when you're doing intellectual activities it brings glory to God? Did you know that God never said, "I want you to take the brain that I gave you, and put it on the shelf, and follow Me." No. He said, I want you to use your mind, use your brain, use your intellect. The Bible says, "*Love God with all your mind.*" When you're developing your mind, you're strengthening your mind, you're educating your mind, you are doing an act of worship. You're doing something with what God gave you.

The biblical world view – and Christianity is a world view – the biblical world view that's in this Bible is the only logical, rational, world view that squares with reality. I don't know if you're studied all the nine major worldviews of life. I have. I've studied them – intensively. Every other worldview that's not based on

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

this ultimately ends up in fatalism. That means nothing matters. There is no meaning in life if there is no God. People try to make it up, but there really isn't. There is no morality in life without God. You cannot have a moral society unless you have a moral God. Otherwise, we're just animals. If there is no God, then you are an accident, and your life doesn't matter squat. If there is no God, then your life has no purpose, it has no meaning. You are a freak accident. You're simply an animal in the survival of the fittest. If I want to come over and kill you and take your stuff, it's the survival of the fittest. There is no basis for morality in society if there is no God. The logical, rational, intelligent, systematically lining it up with reality is the worldview that God gives us in His word. God says, "I want you to use your mind."

People who are thinkers, when they become believers and follow Christ, all of a sudden they fall in love with the Bible. They love to study this book. It is so deep. There is no other book in the world like it. You could study it and study it, and it goes deeper and deeper. It has all the answers to life's questions, like: 'Why am I here? Where am I going? What am I here for? What is the purpose of life? Does my life matter? What's the past? What's the future? Where did I come from?' They are all here in this book. Thinkers dig in and study, and they love Bible study because they are thinkers. The Bible says this in Psalm 119, "*How I love Your law. I think about it all day long.*"

Here at Saddleback, we provide tons and tons of Bible studies. Different small group studies are available this fall at Saddleback. After we finish the SHAPE study, you might want to do one of these studies in your small group. There's a study on purpose, a study on marriage, a study on worship, a study on SHAPE, a study on finances (Biblical principles of finances). There's a study on the Sermon on the Mount, there's the Purpose Driven Life, a new one coming out in December – Wide Angle: Framing Your Worldview. A series that Chuck Colson and I just taped and put together, a series of Bible studies on the major questions of life. There is a study on Foundations – eleven core truths to build your life on. If you haven't gone through Foundations, you need to go through it. We're starting it up again on Wednesday night.

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

Foundations was written by Pastor Tom and Kay, my wife. Well over fifteen thousand people at Saddleback have gone through Foundations, the basic truths of life. If you haven't gone through Foundations you ought to bring your group on Wednesday night. Right now, this season, we've got one of the best Bible teachers in the church coming to teach it – Pastor Tommy Hilliker. If you're a young couples group, bring all your young couples with you or all your small group, and come and be a part of Foundations on Wednesday night.

Why do we need Thinkers in the world?

We need talkers because we need *communication*. We need feelers to lead *compassion*. We need thinkers because the world needs *consideration*. In other words somebody's got to be thinking through complex issues. Complex problems. Somebody's got to be thinking through the implications of what the rest of us are doing. We need people who think through tough problems and bring solutions to the table. That's why we need scientists. That's why we need writers. That's why we need philosophers. That's why we need inventors, inventing new things. That's why we need innovators. That's why we need creators who are thinking through solutions to problems that are in the world.

The Bible tells us that we are to think about what God wants to do in our own lives. It says this in Lamentations 3, "*We should think about the way we are living and turn back to the Lord.*" Socrates said, "The unexamined life isn't worth living." We need to think about the direction of our life. Thinkers are good at this. They ponder the path that they're headed.

Are there any weaknesses to this personality?

Of course. Just like there's weaknesses to talkers, weaknesses to feelers. There are two weaknesses to thinkers.

One, is pride. Thinkers who have the ability to think fast or who are educated, tend to look down on people who don't think the

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

way they do. “You’re not sophisticated, or you’re not educated, or you don’t know what I know.” They tend to devalue everybody else, not realizing that we now know there are at least nine different kinds of intelligence, not just one.

1 Corinthians 8:1 says, *“Knowledge makes people arrogant. Love builds them up.”* The King James version says, *“Knowledge puffs up, love builds up.”* If you’re going to be smart – great. Use your smarts. But you must temper it with love. Otherwise, you’re going to be egotistical.

Let me tell you a little secret. The last couple of years, I’ve had the opportunity to speak at and meet with some of the most brilliant minds in the world. In congresses, conferences, and seminars. Very bright people. Some of them are flat-out stuck up! They’re snooty. They’re snotty. They’re smart, and they know they’re smart. They’ll be happy to tell you they’re smart. They’re proud of their smarts. What they don’t realize is that everybody’s ignorant, just on different subjects. You know some things a physicist doesn’t know. And the person next to you knows some things you don’t know. And they know some things I don’t know. Everybody’s ignorant, just on different subjects. Nobody knows everything. The Bible says don’t be proud of your wisdom. Be proud that you know the Lord. If you’re a thinker, you ought to use your intelligence, but temper it with love. Otherwise you can become egotistical about it.

The other problem of thinkers is indecision. Some people use study as an excuse to never act. Some of the most scholarly people I know are also the most vacillating, wimpy, indecisive people I know. They’re always saying, “It could be this, or it could be that...” They never come to conclusions. The Bible talks about them like this, *“Always studying but never able to recognize the truth.”* Some people use study as an excuse, a barrier to never act. To never really do anything.

The Bible gives warning to thinkers just like it does to talkers and to feelers.

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY

Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

The first one is: Practice humility. The Bible says, "*Don't be impressed with your own wisdom.*" Why? Because God is God, and you're not. He's a lot wiser. Humility is a choice. And, by the way, never pray for God to humble you. In the first place, not once in the Bible are you ever told to pray that prayer. It never says, "Ask God to humble you." So don't ever say, "God, please humble me." No. It says in the Bible, "*Humble yourself before the Lord.*" It's a choice. Humility is something you do to yourself. Nobody else can do it to you. They can humiliate you, but they can't make you humble. Humble is something you do to yourself. In essence, humility is total dependence on God. God, I'm depending on You. I'm trusting You in this moment. Even with the gifts and the talents and abilities You've given me, I'm trusting You. Humility is not denying your strengths. It's being honest about your weaknesses.

The other warning to thinkers is to practice what you know. Practice what you know! If you know it, then do it. James 1:22 says, "*Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*" You could come to Saddleback church for twenty years and take notes on every single sermon ever preached here and still never really do it. I only believe the parts of the Bible I actually do. Do you believe you ought to give to the poor? Yes. Do you do it? No. Do you believe that people need Christ to go to heaven? Do you tell them about it? No. Do you believe in tithing? Yes. Do you do it? No. You only believe the parts you do. You may write down: "Be kind to my wife." But if you're not kind to your wife, you don't believe it. You only believe the parts that you do.

Talkers – they love God with all their heart. Feelers – they love God with their soul. Thinkers love God with their mind.

4. Doers love God with their strength.

This is the fourth personality – the Doer. These are the energetic activists of life. They're the get it done people. The achievers, the accomplishers, the workers, the people that push things forward and make things happen in the practical sense of life.

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

Psalm 116 says this, "*O God here I am, Your servant, Your faithful servant. Set me free for Your service.*" He's saying, "Put me in, Coach! I want to be in the game. Don't leave me on the sidelines. I want to be involved. I don't want to watch history happen, I want to make history. Put me in the game. Let me in there! Let me have a shot at it. I'm ready to go to work Lord. I'm obedient. I'm active, and I'm ready to go to work. I'm ready to serve You."

What is the purpose of Doers in the world?

The world needs *contribution*. We don't just need *communication*. We don't just need *compassion*. We don't just need *consideration*. We've got to get to work and *do* it. We need contribution. We need people of action. We need "get-er-done" people. People with initiative, with energy, with action, with a bias for achievement, with a bias for starting things and growing things and building things and developing things; hands and feet people. Go getters!

The Bible says in Romans 12:1, "*Offer your bodies to Him as a living sacrifice pure and pleasing. That's the most sensible [practical] way to serve God.*" It says offer your body. Why? Because that's the only way you can serve God. Even if your mind or your mouth or your heart or your emotions. It's part of your body. Give Him your body. Say, "God, here is my body for You to use in this world in any way You want it to be used."

Of course, it takes Thinkers and Talkers and Feelers and Doers. About a fourth of us are in each of those categories. God says, "I want you to love Me all four ways in the way that you're primarily shaped. That's the way I expect your primary worship, your primary love, and your primary service to come." By talking, by thinking, by feeling, by doing. We're all necessary in the body of Christ.

Just as Talkers and Feelers and Thinkers have their weaknesses, what are the weaknesses of Doers?

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

I can say it in one word: overwork. Doers are always working. Work, work, work, work! They never stop to think. They certainly don't stop to feel. And they wouldn't spend a second stopping to talk. Let's just get it done. So they're always busy, busy, busy!

God says this in Psalm 127, *"It is senseless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, fearing you're going to starve to death. For God wants His loved ones to get their proper rest."* That would be a good verse to put up on the mirror in your bathroom. God wants His loved ones to get their proper rest.

This week in my personal quiet time, as I was reading through the book of Jeremiah, God gave me a verse that I haven't seen before. In the Message paraphrase, it says this *"Slow down, take a deep breath. What's the hurry? Why wear yourself out? Just what are you after anyway? But you say, 'I can't help it. I'm addicted to alien gods [false gods, phony gods, fake gods – not the true God. I'm addicted to something else other than the one true God], and I can't quit."*

Question: What alien gods are you addicted to? The approval of other people? Money? Status? Are you addicted to praise? To sex? To making a name for yourself? Are you addicted to adrenaline? You just like to rush and work fast. Why can't you slow down? Why can't you stop and take a break? What are you really after? You need to know that, particularly if you're a doer. Why do you do what you do? When you know the why, God will show you the how. But if you don't know why you're doing what you're doing, you're in a cycle. God says slow it down. If you're a doer, you need to slow it down.

Some of you need to do less. Not less for God, but less in other areas. So you'll have more time to do what matters most.

The Bible says that when you become a believer, God makes you a new person inside.

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped To Make A Difference – Part 5

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *"When anyone becomes a Christian, they are a new person inside. The old has passed away. The new has come."* What is actually new in your life when you become a believer? We've talked about this many times – past forgiven, reason for living, home in heaven. Let me tell you something that doesn't change when you come to Christ. Your personality doesn't change. If you were a talker before you knew the Lord, you're still a talker. If you were a feeler before you knew the Lord, you're still a feeler. If you were a thinker before you knew the Lord, you're still a thinker. If you were a doer before you knew the Lord, you still are a doer. God doesn't slow you down when you come to Him. He just changes your direction. In fact He says, "I want to empower you." Remember, you got your personality from Him.

God doesn't want to make you a clone of everybody else in the way that you worship and serve and love God. No. He says, "I want you to worship and love and serve Me the way I made you to be. With your personality. In talking, in feeling, in thinking, through doing. I want you to do it all four ways even though I primarily put you in one category." He says, "Not only that, but I will strengthen your personality. Not dampen it. I'm not going to turn you into a religious nut. I'm going to make you more you than you've ever been before." *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*

Prayer:

Would you pray this prayer in your heart? Dear God, thank You for making me *me*. Forgive me for comparing and trying to be somebody I'm not. I want You to use the personality You've given me, Jesus Christ, to know You and to love You and to serve You. I want to be the expression of what You made me to be. Today I say to You, Jesus Christ, I want to fulfill the Great Commandment. I want to love You with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my mind, and with all my strength. In Your name I pray. Amen.