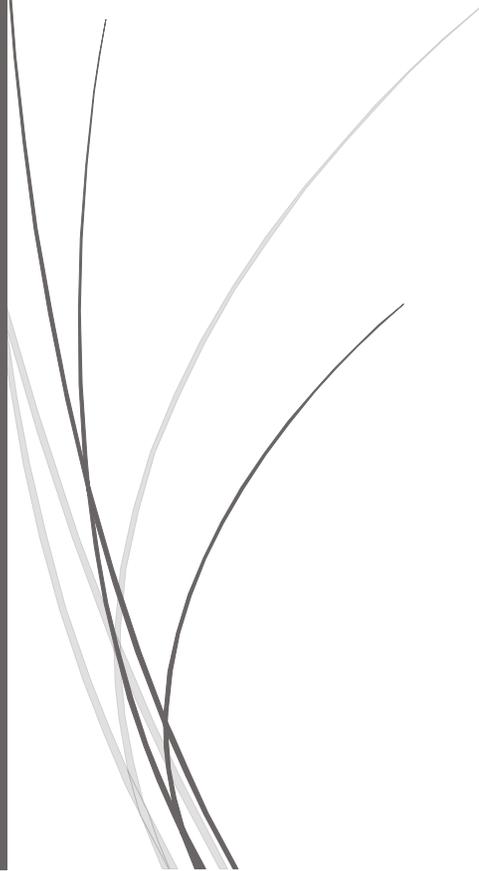


Lesson 6

**THE PATH TO SOUL
SATISFYING LOVE**
THE DYNAMICS OF DIFFERENCE



MarriageHelper





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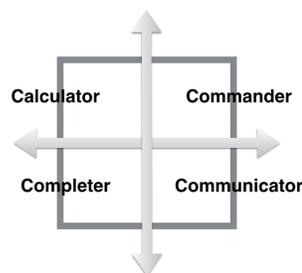
UNDERSTANDING WHY YOUR PARTNER IS SO WEIRD SOMETIMES...

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

Be sure to watch the video before doing these exercises. If you do not, these may be more confusing than helpful.

THE FOUR TEMPERAMENTS GRAPHED

By temperament, we mean the characteristics of a person in the way s/he thinks, behaves, and reacts.



Those above the horizontal line tend to be cool and distant – sometimes standoffish, a little harder to get to know. Those below the horizontal line tend to be warm and friendly, easier to get to know.

Those to the left of the vertical line tend to process and then act. That means they tend to think before deciding what to do. Sometimes, of course, they act quickly, but their typical behaviors involve processing first. Those to the right of the vertical line tend to act and then process. That means that they tend to react quickly, usually without stopping to think things through first. Sometimes they do process carefully before acting, of course, but their typical behaviors involve acting quickly and processing later, if at all.

DETERMINING A PERSON'S TEMPERAMENT

The first thing to decide about the person is whether s/he is one who processes before acting or one who acts before processing. Is this person fast or slow in responding to the conversation of others? The second is whether this person tends to be cool and distant or warm and friendly. When people meet this person, would they think him/her cool or warm? Put together the answers and you have a theory as to which quadrant s/he goes in.

- Cool & Distant + Tend to act rather than stopping to process = **Commander**
- Cool & Distant + Tend to process before acting = **Calculator**
- Warm & Friendly + Tend to process before acting = **Completer**
- Warm & Friendly + Tend to act rather than stopping to process = **Communicator**

The following chart may help you get insight into your temperament. Circle every statement below that you feel strongly describes you. When you finish, note which column has the most circled descriptors. **Note:** Nearly everyone has a combination of temperaments. Figure out the dominant one, and when another is strong, which is the secondary one.

Commander	Calculator	Completer	Communicator
Strong ego	Practical	Laid back	Likes attention
Surrounds self with things that show fame, success, or power	Surrounds self with order, everything in its place	Surrounds self with things that are comfortable or family oriented	Surrounds self with fun things, usually cluttered
Impatient	Detailed	Thoughtful	Impulsive
Tells others what to do	Wants everyone to follow the rules	High importance on loyalty	Wants everyone happy



The Dynamics of Difference

Does not want many details, just bottom line	Wants all relevant information available	Thinks carefully with available information	May forget details and act on emotion
Direct – may be considered rude	Factual – may be considered dry	Loyal to those who matter to him/her	Talkative and sometimes rambles
Solves problems quickly and sometimes harshly	Solves problems by evaluating, examining	Solves problems by avoiding, if possible	Solves problems with a group, often appeasing
Dominating	No Nonsense	Easy going	Outgoing
Results focused	Facts focused	Process focused	People focused
Competitive	Logical	Seen as wise	Impulsive

Before we ask you to write which temperament you believe you are, get even more insight by seeing which temperaments these people in the Bible were.

BIBLICAL VIEW OF DIFFERENCES IN PEOPLE

You have seen these various behavioral styles in the Bible. Various people behave in different ways. Peter made rash decisions. Paul became angry quickly and made it evident that he was. John did not loudly voice his allegiance to Jesus as did Peter, but would not leave His side even in the worst of circumstances. Thomas operated from logic and wanted more facts. In this chapter, you will see how each of these people fit into the temperament model and how our communication with each person works best when we speak “their language” based on their temperament.

Paul behaved primarily in the temperament of a Commander. Note these passages that demonstrate his commander temperament.

- **Strong, direct statements:** *Would that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves.* (Galatians 5:12)

- **Responds to attacks with strength:** *Now some have become arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant, but their power. For the kingdom of God does not consist in words, but in power. What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod or with love and a spirit of gentleness? (1 Corinthians 4:18-21)*

- **Determined to reach his goal, no matter what:** *And now, behold, bound in spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will see my face no more. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. (Acts 20:22-26)*

Thomas behaved primarily in the temperament of a Calculator. Note these passages that demonstrate his calculator temperament.

- **Faced life without letting emotion deter him:** *He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and are You going there again?"... "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, that I may awaken him out of sleep." The disciples therefore said to Him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep. Then Jesus therefore said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him." Thomas therefore, who is called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." (John 11:7-16)*

- **Needed details and proof before making a decision:** *But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I shall see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days again His disciples were inside, and Thomas with them.*

Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst, and said, "Peace {be} with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing." (John 20:24-27)

John behaved primarily in the temperament of a Completer.

- **Completely loyal, staying with Jesus even in the face of possible death from those who knew he was with Jesus:** [Note that John is the "other disciple."] *Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was expedient for one man to die on behalf of the people. And Simon Peter was following Jesus, and so was another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, but Peter was standing at the door outside. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought in Peter. (John 18:14-16)*
- **Dedicated to the point that Jesus told him to care for Mary as if she were his own mother:** [John is the disciple whom Jesus loved.] *When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own household. (John 19:26-27)*
- **Family oriented, even with those he taught:** [Notice his language as he addresses them] *My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin...Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. (1 John 2:1-7)*

Peter behaved primarily in the temperament of a Communicator.

- **Impulsive:** *Peter...said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. (Matthew 14:28-29)*

- **Talks when he should keep quiet:** *Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You.” But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.” (Matthew 16:22-23)*
- **Fearing rejection, he makes promises that he cannot keep:** *Peter...said to Him, “Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away.” Jesus said to him, “Truly I say to you that this very night, before a cock crows, you shall deny Me three times.” Peter said to Him, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You.” (Matthew 26:33-35)*

These men from the Word demonstrate the differences in people, as well as showing that we can work together in love even when our temperaments differ.

WHAT IS YOUR TEMPERAMENT

Examine the chart toward the beginning of this chapter again, read through the apostles' characteristics, and then fill in the blank, “I think I may be a _____.” This could be a combination of primary and secondary, such as “I think I may be a Communicator/Commander.”

To get another view, ask two or more people who know you well to go through the exercise and tell you what they think you are.

If you wish to purchase an online profile that will evaluate your temperament and provide a several page report for you to print, contact us at info@marriagehelper.com.

IF YOU ARE MARRIED

Most people who are in relationships are in that relationship with a person of differing temperament. Therefore, do not panic if your partner's temperament is very different from yours. It will take more work, but thousands and thousands of couples do it well.

After each of you has read this chapter in this workbook and watched the video, compare your views of yourselves and each other. Share what you think with each other and then complete the questions below.

WHAT ARE MY CHARACTERISTICS?

WHAT ARE MY SPOUSE'S CHARACTERISTICS?

After your discussion, do you still believe your temperament to be what you first thought? Or have you modified your thinking? Either way, fill in these blanks.

"It seems that my temperament is _____."

"It seems that my loved one's temperament is _____."

HOW YOUR TEMPERAMENTS AFFECT YOUR MARRIAGE

There is no temperament better than another and no combination of primary and secondary temperaments that are better than others. You are what you are. Remember what Peter said in Acts 10:34-35: *"I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right."*



As we covered in chapter three, acceptance is the key to love. Do not try to make your spouse into something s/he is not. Neither should you let your spouse try to make you into something that you are not. The secret here is not to change one's temperament, but to find a way to have a good relationship when your temperaments conflict.

Using the temperaments as your basis, answer the following questions together. Talk them through. Do not be pushy and do not be defensive. The goal is not to convince, but to cooperate.

(Some of the questions may not apply to your marriage.)

1. Based on our temperaments, how do we differently approach finances?
2. Based on our temperaments, how do we differently approach parenting?
3. Based on our temperaments, how do we differently approach sex?
4. Based on our temperaments, how do we differently approach consulting each other before making decisions?
5. Based on our temperaments, how do we differently approach dealing with conflict?

IF YOU ARE NOT IN A RELATIONSHIP

After you have completed the exercises about yourself in the Determining Temperaments section above and if you would like to learn more, read chapter six in *The Art of Falling In Love* to discover with which temperaments you likely would interact best. This does not mean that you cannot have a good relationship with a person of a very different temperament; however, it is easier to have a good relationship with a person who is more like you. It takes more work – especially compromise – to have a good relationship with a person who is less like you.

List here the temperaments that would blend most easily with yours:



The Dynamics of Difference

As you meet people who may be potential companions, early in the relationship use the two questions in the Determining Temperaments section to get a theory about which quadrant s/he is in, both primary and secondary. Watch that person's actions and expressed attitudes to determine if your initial analysis was correct.

When you feel that you have read this person correctly, ask yourself the following questions before getting serious. If you wait until you are already serious, you will not be objective.

1. How would our respective temperaments affect our relationship in the future?
2. How much work would it take for each of us to be happy with our respective temperaments if we made a commitment to each other?
3. What would I have to be aware of to best get along with this person?
4. What changes or adjustments would I have to make to my own behavior to have a good relationship with this person?
5. What would this person have to be aware of to best get along with me?
6. What changes or adjustment to this person's behaviors would need to take place for him/her to get along with me?
7. Is developing this relationship worth all it will take to make it good?
8. Honestly evaluate each of these if you wish to choose wisely.



DAILY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

DAY ONE

Spend a few minutes meditating and talking with God about your personality and how you believe He thinks of you. Jot your thoughts here.

The one thing that I will make sure I pray about today that will help me be a loving person is...

DAY TWO

Spend a few minutes meditating and talking with God about your spouse's personality, especially those things you are thankful for about him or her. If you are single, spend time with God about what you want your spouse's personality to be. Jot your thoughts here.



The Dynamics of Difference

The one thing that I will make sure I pray about today that will help me be a loving person is...

DAY THREE

Spend a few minutes meditating and talking with God about how you could use your personality to serve Him more than you ever have before. Jot your thoughts here.

The one thing that I will make sure I pray about today that will help me be a loving person is...

DAY FOUR

Spend a few minutes meditating and talking with God about anything in your personality that you wish to change. Jot your thoughts here.



The Dynamics of Difference

The one thing that I will make sure I pray about today that will help me be a loving person is...

DAY FIVE

Spend a few minutes meditating and talking with God thanking Him for making you with the strengths and assets that He did. Talk those over with Him one at a time. Jot your thoughts here.

The one thing that I will make sure I pray about today that will help me be a loving person is...



SHARING TIME

Before you discuss with your spouse, think these through and write your answers. What we think and write about has dramatically more effect on us than what we talk about. Write your answers so that you get the most from this study.

1. (For couples) Understanding the temperaments of yourself and your spouse, what is one thing you can do to improve your communication/interaction?
(For singles) Understanding your temperament, what is one thing you can do to better express your feelings with those closest to you?

2. Study the list of characteristics given for your personality type. Which do you find the most positive? The least positive?

3. Other than the examples given in the workbook, what Bible character do you think you are similar to? Why?



The Dynamics of Difference

4. (For couples) What is your favorite thing about your spouse's temperament?
(For singles) Which temperament do you think would best compliment your own?

5. If there was one thing you wish God would give you the ability to change about yourself, what would it be? Why?



NOTES AS YOU WATCH THE VIDEO



INVITE JOE BEAM TO SPEAK....

Invite Joe Beam to your church or organization for a one-day marriage event, or an entire weekend.

THE LOVEPATH

In this provocative, humorous presentation Joe gives a brief overview of how people fall in love and grow in love. He also explains how anyone can fall more deeply in love ***or rescue lost love and fall in love again by following the LovePath.***

You may also choose from the following topics to include in Joe's presentation or ***ask for any relationship topic you feel important to your church or organization.***

THE PERSONALITIES OF MARRIAGE – OPTIONAL

A fun and practical look at the way personalities affect marriage. Did the chapter six video and this workbook leave you wanting to know more? In this 1½-hour session Joe explains in greater detail. While often hilarious, the information is very much needed and oh so valuable to every couple. It also helps in parenting!

SOLVING UNSOLVABLE PROBLEMS IN MARRIAGE – OPTIONAL

This very practical 1 ½ hour segment leads couples through a process of understanding what their true core issues are when they have an apparently insolvable problem. After teaching a technique to identify core issues, Joe then leads them through a simple, yet powerful method for finding compromise that will please both.

SEX IN MARRIAGE – OPTIONAL

In this 2-hour section, Joe discusses sex in marriage from a Biblical and scientific perspective. He presents fascinating information, explains how to overcome common problems, and provides God-given principles for a wonderful and fulfilling sex life in marriage. The last hour is a Q &A time where Joe answers questions submitted in writing from anonymous audience members. Be aware that this is a very frank discussion and that the questions asked are often very specific.

PARENTING – OPTIONAL

Solid research indicates that there are four parenting styles and each has a different effect on children, especially as they reach adolescence and adulthood. Joe explains the four styles and how each parent present may be affecting his/her children's futures.

Call 866-903-0990 or email info@marriagehelper.com for details and other available segments.



MARRIAGE HELPER

If your marriage is in crisis—or if you love someone whose marriage is in crisis—our success rate since 1999 is three out of four marriages. It doesn't matter if one spouse comes reluctantly or under pressure. It doesn't matter if one is madly in love with someone else. Our success rate remains just as high. It is, of course, by the grace of God Almighty.

If you wish a miracle for you or someone you love, call now toll free 866-903-0990 or visit us at www.marriagehelper.com.