



*Welcome to
Heart-to-Heart*

**Getting Along in a Family of Opposites;
Normalizing the Differences of the
Four Basic Personalities**

Romans 12:16-18

[Amplified Bible]

“Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty (snobbish, high-minded, exclusive), but readily adjust yourself to [people, things] and give yourselves to humble tasks. Never overestimate yourself or be wise in your own conceits. Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is honest and proper and noble [aiming to be above reproach] in the sight of everyone. If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

“You will not be able to redesign the basic personality with which your child was born. Some characteristics are genetically programmed, and they will always be there ... My advice to you is to *accept, appreciate and cultivate* the personality with which your ... child was born.”

- James Dobson

Proverbs 22:6

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Webster’s definition “bent” = an individual tendency, disposition or inclination

“Train up a child according to their natural bent, their individual tendencies and innate personality and when they are older, they will know who they are, why God made them and what purpose they have for living and loving the God who made them.”

DISC Personality Types

- Domineering
- Influencing
- Steady
- Conscientious

Tim LaHaye or Florence Littauer Personality Types

- Choleric
- Sanguine
- Phlegmatic
- Melancholy

Myers-Briggs Personality Types

- Introvert - Extrovert
- Sensing - Intuitive
- Thinking - Feeling
- Judging - Perceiving

John Trent & Gary Smalley's, “The Treasure Tree”

- Lion
- Otter
- Golden Retriever
- Beaver



Lion Personality

Extrovert and TASK - focused

Nickname: The Doer

Characteristics:

- Takes charge naturally, born to be a leader
- Desires above all to be competent and get results
- Daring, unafraid of new situations
- Feels natural to them to tell others what to do
- Welcomes a challenge
- Firm and serious about what is expected
- Prefers things to be done the RIGHT way
- Goal oriented
- Energized by people
- Makes decisions quickly
- Typically needs to process through goal setting

Tips for Balancing a Lion Personality:

- Seek God on how to temper your STRONG WILL.
- Learn to make communication TWO- WAY.
- Practice being a better LISTENER. Understand you can come across as if you are trying to CONTROL others.
- Although you are not naturally COMPASSIONATE, work at being sensitive towards others and their feelings.
- Realize that life is not always BLACK and WHITE.
- Recognize your high need to feel IN CONTROL but work at not being too BOSSY.
- Seek opportunities to let other make the DECISION.
- Humble yourself often before GOD.

“...the righteous are as bold as a lion.” –Proverbs 28:1

Parenting a Lion

1. Recognize they were born a leader by GOD'S DESIGN.
2. Teach them to listen *before* they talk sometimes; don't allow them to CONTROL others or situations!
3. Understand that they don't mean to BE BOSSY or hurt the feelings of other people.
4. Make your EXPECTATIONS clear and explain "why".
5. Accept that they are not naturally compassionate; encourage them to consider PEOPLE more important than THINGS but don't force it on them.
6. Let them make some of their own DECISIONS ; it makes them feel valuable and significant.

LIFE VIEW: WORK!



Otter Personality

Extrovert and PEOPLE - focused

Nickname: The Talker

Characteristics:

- **Life of the party, without effort**
- **Desires above all to be liked by all**
- **Flexible, and very aware of others, loves a crowd**
- **Feels natural to perform**
- **Optimistic, sees the good in everything/everyone**
- **Talks A LOT, often exaggerating the facts**
- **Prefers things to be FUN**
- **People oriented**
- **Energized by people**
- **Impulsive decision maker**
- **Typically needs to process by talking**

Tips for Balancing an Otter Personality:

- Recognize your difficulty in COMPLETING tasks, work toward completion.
- Realize your desire and need for variety and FLEXIBILITY.
- Don't take on more than you can handle, learn to say NO.
- Learn to be more intentional about being ON TIME.
- Seek out strategies for getting ORGANIZED.
- Recognize your need to stay consistent in reading/ studying the Word of God so you can live by TRUTH.
- Seek out friends who enjoy HAVING FUN.
- Take time to think about a DECISION, even buying something small.

“A cheerful heart is good medicine.” –Proverbs 17:22

Parenting the Otter Personality

1. Encourage and require them to COMPLETE things that they start.
2. Accept their sheer joy in PERFORMING and making others happy, most often it is not prideful.
3. Help them to not commit or offer to do more than they can REALISTICALLY get done.
4. Teach them the importance of being ON TIME but don't expect them to be 😊
5. PRAISE! PRAISE! PRAISE! They crave verbal affirmation!
6. Understand they tend to be highly circumstantial, controlled by their current situation and EMOTIONS .

LIFE VIEW: FUN!



Golden Retriever Personality

Introvert and People - focused

Nickname: The Watcher

Characteristics:

- **Very stable and predictable**
- **Desires above all to move slowly and be sure of things**
- **Systematic, level-headed and tenacious**
- **Feels natural to them to help others and be empathetic**
- **Loyal / faithful to family and friends**
- **Listens carefully to others**
- **Prefers things to be peaceful, doesn't like anyone to argue**
- **Peace oriented (everybody stay calm!)**
- **Drained by people**
- **Procrastinates in decision making**
- **Typically needs to process by thinking it through alone**

Tips for Balancing a Golden Retriever Personality:

- Recognize your **NEED** for direct motivation, learn to set **GOALS**.
- Put forth effort for being more **ENTHUSIASTIC** !
- Assert yourself in making **DECISIONS** and stick to your decision.
- Don't get in the habit of ignoring your feelings; speak **TRUTH** to others in a kind way.

Tips for Balancing a Golden Retriever Personality:

- Purposely take on new CHALLENGES, preferably with someone who can and will help you.
- Intentionally offer to be RESPONSIBLE for things.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you STAND UP for YOURSELF!
- Recognize your innate resistance to CHANGE and make yourself try something NEW and uncomfortable once in awhile

“Blessed is the one who is kind to the needy.” Proverbs 14:21

Parenting the Golden Retriever Personality

1. Recognize their tendency to be LAZY because they are so easy going.
2. Don't expect ENTHUSIASM from them.
3. Require them to make some of their own CHOICES ; but too many DECISIONS in a short period of time will be overwhelming.
4. Be cautious that they don't get BLAMED for everything; they can easily become the scapegoat.
5. Help them to express themselves to others, tell them what to SAY .
6. Encourage but don't force them to take on RESPONSIBILITY .

LIFE VIEW: PEACE!



Beaver Personality

Introvert and TASK - focused

Nickname: The Thinker

Characteristics:

- **Dedicated and conscientious**
- **Desires above all to be helpful and prove their worth**
- **Pursues excellence naturally**
- **Typically neat and tidy, noticing every detail**
- **Innate ability to stick to a job to its completion**
- **High need to ask lots of questions**
- **Prefers things to be done the as they always have been done, resists change**
- **Detail oriented**
- **Drained by people**
- **Agonizes over decisions, wants it to be the right one**
- **Typically needs to process by asking questions and then making lists**

Tips for Balancing a Beaver Personality:

- Understand that you are highly sensitive and hurt easily, purpose to not take everything PERSONALLY.
- Work at not having a PESSIMISTIC outlook and attitude.
- Learn to deal with disappointment and failure by not expecting PERFECTION out of yourself, others or circumstances.
- Change your SELF TALK ; learn to say what is TRUE , not what YOU think or feel.

Tips for Balancing a Beaver Personality:

- Although you are QUIET by nature, learn good conversation and SOCIAL skills.
- Intentionally be SPONTANEOUS once in awhile.
- Make yourself try NEW things and go into NEW situations.
- Allow yourself EXTRA TIME to accomplish things.

“All hard work brings a profit...” Proverbs 14:23

Parenting the Beaver Personality

1. Understand that they are highly SENSITIVE and get their feelings hurt very easily
2. Encourage them to see the “bright side” as they are typically programmed with a NEGATIVE outlook.
3. Help them learn to handle disappointment and FAILURE without letting it affect them in a profound way.
4. Give them TIME to do things, rushing them frustrates them and makes them feel insecure.
5. Accept that they often have a *need* for QUIET, provide it for them.
6. Try to keep a reasonable family schedule, they crave the security of a ROUTINE.

LIFE VIEW: RULES!



Lion – Extrovert – Task Focused

Characteristics	Strengths	Weaknesses
Extrovert	Makes decisions quickly	Talks too much; interrupts
Able to accomplish much	Naturally takes charge	Over Reacts
Loves a challenge	Self-disciplined	Bossy
Daring and Brave	Good leader	Rebellious – always wants to do things their way
Many friends, doesn't need a best friend	Gets the job done	Doesn't always think about the feelings of others
Strong-willed	Accomplishes Goals	Competitive, Poor Loser

Beaver – Introvert – Task-Focused

Characteristics	Strengths	Weaknesses
Introvert	Sticks to the job	Misses out on fun
Task focused	Good at performing but nervous	Very critical of self and others
Dedicated/ conscientious	Self-conscious	Slow – has to do things the right way
Wants to be helpful	Organized, neat and tidy	Unsure of self, insecure
Doesn't like to be in charge	Very creative	Can be moody
One Best Friend	Pays attention to details	Selfish

Otter – Extrovert – People Focused

Characteristics	Strengths	Weaknesses
Extrovert	Flexible	Impulsive
Life of the Party	Happy 99% of the Time	Interrupts Others
Loves to Perform	Has A lot of Energy	Lacks Self-discipline
Talks A lot	Can Perform without Nervousness	Doesn't Always Complete a Task
Loves People	Fun to be Around	Typically Very Late
Many Friends!	Makes Others Comfortable	Emotional Reactions

Golden Retriever – Introvert – People Focused

Characteristics	Strengths	Weaknesses
Introvert	Good listener	Doesn't want to start or finish things
Moves/Processes slowly	Very loyal	Procrastinates
Loves to let others do the talking	Happy most of the time	Can be irresponsible
Likes others to make decisions	Very cooperative	Doesn't always see the importance of standing up for what's right
Easy to be around	Kind-hearted	Late
Peaceful	A Good Friend	Tends to be Lazy