



The 4 Religious Types

How personality influences our perception of God.
Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12

Like a car's steering wheel, the will influences a person's choices to move life in a new direction. Most people find a spiritual experience devoid of meaning if it does not sufficiently touch their will so that it moves them in a new direction.

Four kinds of people define as meaningful various types of spiritual experiences. They report that a spiritual experience is most likely to touch their will if it primarily involves one of the following: thinking, feeling, meditation, action.

When people say they did not find a church or a particular religious experience within a congregation meaningful, they mean that the type of spiritual food the church provided lacked the power to touch their wills and influence their lives. Closer examination often reveals that the spiritual food served was for other types of people. It met someone else's needs, but not theirs.

<i>Which of the following types are most like you? Which does our church's worship most likely appeal to?</i>	<i>Most Like Me</i>	<i>Our Worship Appeals To</i>
The Thinking Type: These individuals find spiritual guidance in the words of Scripture, sermons, and position papers on ethical issues. They are likely, for example, to examine the words of hymns to see if we are singing what we believe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Feeling Type: These individuals find spiritual enrichment in music, heartfelt testimonials by persons whose lives God has touched, and engagement in personal evangelism. For example, they are likely to judge hymns by how the style and tempo make them feel rather than by word context and definition.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Meditation Type: These individuals find spiritual enrichment in contemplation and introspection. Sometimes called mystics, their prayer is largely an experience of hearing God speak to them rather than vice-versa.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Action Type: These individuals find spiritual enrichment in service and idealistic crusading designed to transform society. For them, action is authentic theology and prayer. People of this type find little spiritual nurture in organized religions, which they may accuse of "talking the talk but not walking the walk."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

—Adapted from *Leadership Is the Key*, by Herb Miller © 1997 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

Discuss

1. What type best describes you? Explain.
2. Share an event that influenced the course of your life. What role did your personality play in that event?
3. What are the main components of worship in our church, and which type of person is each component likely to reach?

Which groups of people do you think are less fed by what our church provides? How can we improve on our ability to appeal to these religious types?