BEYOND M-BTI

Diversity beyond personality type
Other Descriptors Used

• B. McCarthy, 4MAT® System: Teaching to Learning Styles with Right/Left Mode Techniques (Barrington, IL: Excell, 1980/1987)
• M. LeFever, Learning Styles: Reaching Everyone God Gave You to Teach (Barrington, IL: David C. Cook, 1995)

Show two books
Different ways to learn: A] How to perceive reality; B] how to process reality.
A]- Perceiving Sensor/feeler: more concrete (F)- things to look at, feel; Thinker: more abstract (T)- things to ponder
B] Processing- How we make it part of us: doing it/active vs. Thinking about it/reflective/watching
Broomhilda transparency
Left Brain

• Analytical/logical
• Speech/written language
• Number skills
• Reasoning
• Scientific skills
• Scientist/mathematician
• Traditional education approach

T- logical
Right brain

- Whole picture/Gestalt view
- Spatial perception
- Interrelationships, patterns
- Imagination
- Poet, painter, musician

N- how fit together.

So much of this recognition of differences is intuitive and common sense. What these tools do is help categorize and analyze what we observe.

CALVIN AND HOBBES CARTOON
PUBLIC WORSHIP I

“I come to this church because we stop after the sermon to hug each other and say ‘The peace of God be with you.’ That’s the only time all week I’m touched by another person. Often I feel as if God is in that touch.”

Elderly widow; (Extrovert, sensing)
PUBLIC WORSHIP II

“That’s my least favorite time. I’m uncomfortable when people I don’t know very well come up and hug me.”

Introvert/thinking
WHAT DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF WORSHIP ATTRACT DIFFERENT PERSONALITY TYPES?

Expository, exegetical sermon- traditional, analytical: IT
More worship in service; common sense, practical sermons; social action- S
Mystical, unexpected valued; dynamic, intuition driven- liturgical dance, choir- NP

Read McDonald Article (handout available)
So many books on subject written by intuitive introverts—how to/ x steps to pray in your prayer closet: just you and God. These = minority in society (6-15% women, 19-29% men). Giving up images, looking for emptiness—opposite of most.

What of ‘Senser’—need concrete, tactile images

“‘Extravert’—doesn’t want long silences, retreats—expressive: art/music, group prayer

I—reflective, journaling

E—Act out

S—Here and now, Old laborer came in after work, sat in back pew for 30 minutes daily after work. Pastor finally asked, “What do you say to God each day?” Reply: I look up and say, “Jesus, it’s Jimmy.” He looks down and says, “Jimmy, it’s Jesus.” Imagine self in Scripture as pray.

N—centering prayer. Focus on word or concept—Jesus prayer, lectio divina

T—logical, liturgy, reflection on creed, God’s transcendence

F—intimacy with God, overpowering wonder at God’s immanence
Church doctrine committee- INTJ: analytical, detail, categories

Deacons- looking after church fabric- IP (unexpected, flexible)/J(organized)

Evangelist- E

Looking after needy/ helps- F

Hospital/sick visitation- ISF listens to feelings
E needs Ps 46:10- be still and know that I am God

I- needs action and involvement
Personality and Spirituality: Implications for church life

- Diversity within a church
- Diverse churches

Typical family discussion?

Jack- I didn’t get anything out of that sermon!
Marlene- You’re kidding! I bought the tape.
Jack- But it was on Hur! I never even heard of Hur.
Marlene- That’s the point. Lots of Christians who serve God are almost anonymous, but like Hur, they are important to God’s plan.
Jack- Another thing! When church is over I wish you wouldn’t be in such a big hurry to leave.
Marlene- I feel silly standing around looking for people to talk to.
Jack- But that’s the most important part! This morning Bob shared some real struggles. I wish you could see how important coffee time is.

G. Barna, America 2000: What the Trends Mean for Xy- people will be multiple church attenders. Go where needs are met. Partners with different needs, one church can’t meet, will find other ways. (Lefever, 181)
“The only bad method is the one you use every week.”
CONGREGATIONAL PERSONALITY

- Dominant worship type?
- Dominant preaching type?
- Dominant prayer type?
- Dominant ministry type?
- What might you do to address the minority, underrepresented types?

Discuss in small groups. Be ready to share at the end re. the last item.