

Conversation Starters

- If you went into a job interview and were asked about your strengths, what would you say?
- What about your weaknesses?

Discuss

When it comes to the Christian life, there is a self to lose, and a self to find. Read this:

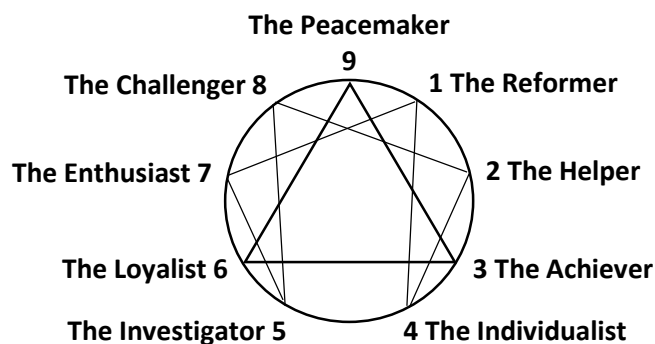
...throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. (Ephesians 4:22-24)

But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. (Colossians 3:8-10)

Before you can put on your new self, you have to take off your old self. But if you do not have self-understanding, this can prove to be pretty difficult or not as effective of a process.

- Do you know the areas in your life that you tend to struggle?
- Do you know who you are striving to be and what attitudes you should be working to put on?

There are many different ways and tests that are available to help you understand what your strengths are. It's always a good practice to ask close friends and family and mentors. The Enneagram, used correctly, is a great resource with Christian roots:



- Can you identify anyone in your life that knows you well enough to know your strengths and weaknesses?
- According to the Enneagram, what “type(s)” are you? (See “Resources” below.)
- Do you find this to be pretty accurate?
- How does this help you understand how you can grow spiritually?

Next Steps

Take some time to figure out what type(s) you are on the Enneagram test. As we journey through these next few weeks, spend some time wrestling with how you can use this self-understanding to draw closer to God become more like He intended you to be.

Pray

Father, you have made each of us so unique. From the way we look to the way we talk and to how we think. Your creative imagination is greater than we can even imagine. Thank you for the many ways we can learn about who we are, and how that can move us closer to you. Give us wisdom as we go through this series and learn about how we can take off our old self and put on the new self that you have given us. And above all, may we grow closer to you and who you designed us to be.

Resources

The Road Back to You by Suzanne Stabile

The Path Between Us by Suzanne Stabile

Online Enneagram Test: <https://www.exploreyourtype.com/details>