

**Unique:  
Wired  
Luke 10:25-28**

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When I was younger I remember being in church and hearing about “eternal life.” I understood “eternal life” happened after a person died. I thought eternal life was found in heaven with God and that it lasted forever. It was something far away and mysterious, and I wasn’t in a hurry to get there! I believed that eternal life had nothing to do with life on earth.

It wasn’t until I was well into my adult life that I began to understand “eternal life” in a more expanded view. What I have come to discover about eternal life is that well, I was partially right it is about living with God forever. What I didn’t realize is that eternal life is a both and. It begins now with God and is in our future with God. It’s both! It’s right now and it’s in the future. That brought a deeper understanding of God’s amazing love. God created us to live a life full of meaning and hope and joy. Today, now and in the future. So how do we do that? Well one way is to appreciate how we were created. God created each of us differently. We are all unique. We are all created with a certain bent or personality. As we embrace our unique personality we begin to experience that eternal life here and now. That is literally what it means when we say “thy kingdom come on earth.”

We are in a worship series entitled, “Unique.” Over the last two weeks we’ve looked at our unique gifts and our unique passions. This week, we’re going to explore our unique personalities. We all have our own personality and each one of us is created and wired differently.

One of the quickest ways to understand how we are all created differently is to look at music. We all like different kinds of music. If there’s five people in your family, they like five different kinds of music. Why? Because you’ve got five different personalities. God likes every kind of music in the world, but you and I don’t. But God does. God was the creator of it all.

God has created infinite variety in the human family.

While none of us are locked into a personality type, we all have a particular wiring. And if we can’t name it, we know people who can. God has created us with a particular, specific “bent” and we need to be encouraged to embrace it, celebrate it, and use our unique wiring to engage in God’s work in the world. And when we embrace who we are, our personality... we experience eternal life right here and right now.

Today we’re going to look at a story in the Gospel of Luke. In this story there are “religious” people who are pressing Jesus on the law. Their understanding of God is all about following the law, performing and doing the “right” things. Jesus lets them know, that life isn’t experienced by living out the law, but eternal life is about living out who you are in God’s love.

*Luke 10:25-28*

<sup>25</sup> *One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: “Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?”*

<sup>26</sup> *Jesus replied, “What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?”*

<sup>27</sup> *The man answered, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

<sup>28</sup> *“Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!”*

Jesus says “do this and you will live.” That’s how we experience eternal life, by loving God, neighbor and ourselves. However, most people, including me, find it easier to love God and neighbor than it is to love ourselves.

So often we find ourselves wishing that we were other than what we are. Many of us struggle with how we are wired. Those with the gift of gab and chit chat wish they knew how to be quiet more often, and those who struggle to get a word out wish that they were more bold and more articulate. We often find ourselves coveting the way others are wired rather than embracing our own uniqueness, our own personalities. However, you and I were created by God and God has created us with a specific “bent” and that is good. We need to be encouraged to embrace, to celebrate, and to use our unique personalities to love God, others and ourselves. When we do we experience what it means to live that eternal life that Jesus speaks about right now.

How do we discover and embrace the gift of our

personality? Jesus says to love God with your heart, your soul, your strength and your mind. You have each of these personality traits in you. However, the reality is – every one of us focuses on one of those more than the others. That is God-given personality. Each of us has a particular bent in our personality. You may tend to be a heart person or a soul person or a mind person or a strength person. And that's what we're going to talk about today. Are you more heart, soul, strength or mind? Let's take a look at what each of these look like.

Heart people are good with words. They are good at explaining the connection between heart and words. They're verbal. They're good at discussions. They're good at talking and writing. They're good at putting words together. That's how their personality is wired, and it's how they love in the world. I have a friend, Paul, who is one of those great heart people. He is amazing at using his words. If I need help with how to verbalize anything, or how to write something, I know I can go to my friend Paul and he will make magic out of those words!

Soul people tend to be good at feeling. They tend to be more nonverbal. They feel things deeply. They have a high emotional IQ. They tend to be more in touch with their emotions and feelings than the rest of us. I am not good at working out my own feelings. However I do have a friend, Jody, who is able to help me sort through feelings and emotions in my life. It is such a great gift she shares with me. Soul people share their inner world to love God, others and themselves.

Mind people are good at thinking. They tend to use their mental capabilities to love and serve God, neighbor and themselves. They take the approach of analysis. They enjoy figuring things out. Solving issues. My friend, Sheryl, is one of those who is able to think through situations clearly. She has the ability to analyze and think through complex issues, complex problems. We need people who can think through things for us and bring solutions to the table.

Strength people tend to be good at doing. That is how they love God, others and themselves, by activity. They're more physical. They're more practical. They live by the phrase "Just do it!" Then they go out and do it. They're not so much thinking or feeling, or even verbal, but more of a doer. This is definitely the bent in my own personality! Just do it!

Know that you're a blend of all of these; we all are. There's a little bit of each of us that is really bent in a certain way. And God calls you to embrace it because

you are part of God's symphony; God's symphony of love and life. Imagine using your personality as an instrument. Every instrument playing is a part that creates beautiful sound. God wants you to embrace your part. God wants you to embrace who you are, your personality, because God shaped you. In the book of Romans chapter 12, Paul says, "Love from the center of who you are." Embrace your own personality. Be who God made you to be.

The thing is, God hasn't made you a clone of anyone else. God says, "I love you and I want you to love and serve Me in the way I made you. With your personality – heart, soul, mind and strength." God will strengthen your personality and support you. And when you embrace your own uniqueness, you experience eternal life, now and forever!

God has called YOU and made you. A really smart person I know once said, "You might as well be yourself, because everyone else is already taken."

I encourage you to do something this week. Take some time to identify which personality bent is your most dominant. Are you Heart, Soul, Mind or Strength? If you struggle with this, ask a friend to help you discern. Then embrace it. Once you embrace it, find a way that you can celebrate and share God's love for who you are with yourself and someone else.