

The Path to Wholeness: SIX September 3, 2018

As we look at the church we'll see . . .

Lots of ONES; the REFORMERS

Reformers want correct what's gone wrong and make it RIGHT!
The church is a great platform for the ONES

Lots of TWOS; the HELPER

TWOS LOVE to serve, and what better place than a volunteer organization
that's always desperate for more help!

A goodly number of THREES; the ACHIEVERS

if they see the church as a place to achieve their goals
or help them achieve their goals in the world outside.

Very few FOURS; the INDIVIDUALIST

FOURs march to the beat of a different drummer.
The church isn't always good at making room for the FOURs
And the FOURs get impatient with people who just can't see
what's right in front of their eyes, which is most everybody!

A smattering of FIVES; the OBSERVER

But FIVES would rather stand at a distance and observe
than jump in and join the party.

BUT SIXes!

We've got SIXes!

There are more SIXes in the church than any other personality type.

In fact, there are more sixes than any other number.

40% of people who take the self-evaluation test identify as SIXes.

As we look at this personality type this morning, you'll discover why this is true.

A SIX is – The LOYALIST

SIXs are cooperative, team players, reliable.
In relationships one can count on their fidelity.
They do their utmost for the people they love.

They have a sense for what is possible *and* what is not.
They will see the weak points of a project,
 and have a sixth sense for threatening dangers.
REDEEMED/MATURE SIXes have learned the art of
 holding on to sound tradition while being ready to boldly chart new paths.
Thank God for the SIXes!

But, as with all assets, there is a shadow side.
To help us understand that shadow side,
we look to their core motivation and their core temptation.

CORE MOTIVATION – I need to be safe and avoid risk

An SIX has learned that he world is a scary place;
 And anyone who doesn't think so is just naïve!
 They will see the negative before they see the positive.
They live with a perpetual sense of danger,
 making them hyper-vigilant,
 always plagued by visions of what could go wrong.
They are suspicious of other people's motives
 and so are fearful and distrusting., driven to avoid risk and stay safe.

If you're a SIX, you're torn on the inside.
You sense in the core of your being that God has called you to great faith,
 but there is a strong pull inside you toward your CORE TEMPTATION . . .

FEAR. Fear will be your life-long CORE TEMPTATION

Only a SIX will seldom call their fear, fear.
They will call it by a more respectable name:
 Like prudence, reasonableness, judicious skepticism, diplomacy.
It's their way of justifying their fear-based response to the world —
 especially if you're a SIX and male.

No man wants to accept that his core temptation is fear.

Men aren't supposed to be afraid of anything! Right?

Wrong – Fear is a core temptation of all humanity.

Now this fear can drive a SIX into one of two trajectories.

Their fear can make them emotionally dependent on others,
or it can make this distrustful of all others.

Fear can make a person likable and compliant on the one hand
or caustic and obstinate on the other.

It can make people extremely risk-adverse,
or go the other direction and make them outright dare-devils –
an attempt to overcome fear by flying in its face.

Fear can drive people to seek out authority people or authority structures
like churches, political parties, religious ideologies.

Reliable, unchanging, black and white answers feel safe.

(That's the essence of fundamentalism.)

Or fear can drive people to instinctively resist authority people and structures
preferring instead the path of non-conformity,
and forever being drawn to championing the underdog and disenfranchised.

Ironically, in either case, whether submitting to fundamentalism or reacting against it,
It's still fundamentalism that holds power to shape their attitudes and behaviors.

It's mostly the first trajectory that explains why there are so many SIXes in the church.

The church is very attractive to insecure people
who desire the authority people to assure them they're OK.

You know, we get angry when we see politicians play on people's fears to grasp power,
but the church down through the ages has honed this art as well.

In church, if we are not careful, we will find fear masquerading as faith.

What looks like loyalty to God may only be fear longing for a black and white world
where we don't have to discern the subtleties of the Spirit of God.

It's easy for the church to settle for people being afraid of God
instead of having people falling in love with God.

It's tough being a SIX.
The irony is that fear of harm actually draws harm to us.
It's a biblical principle that the things we fear are the things we attract.
It's a kind of self-fulfilling prophecy.

SIXes often report breaks in their life history;
they couldn't complete their studies or training.
They are often overcome by a paralyzing fear of failure
or they are trying to get something so perfect that they fail at their task.

SIXes will fight for their survival but sabotage their own success.

If you know a SIX, you need to give them a hug. Life can be tough!

To see how much God loves a SIX and can transform and celebrate a SIX,
we go to the BOOK.
And here we will meet Peter, as colorful a SIX as they come.

Peter, a man who wants desperately to be loyal to Jesus and do great things for Jesus. but is riddled by fear.

Matt 14 – Just after Jesus has fed the 5,000.
22 Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat
and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home.

Note: Jesus always runs from fame and from power
and tries to get his disciples away from the lure of that fool's gold as well.

23 After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray.
Night fell while he was there alone.
24 Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land,
for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves.
25 About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water.
26 When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified.
In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!"

Underline, *in their fear*. Some of us live there every day.

27 But Jesus spoke to them at once. “Don’t be afraid,” he said.

Underline, *don't be afraid*.

Over 360 times in the Bible God says. Don't be afraid.

That's just about one time for everyday of the year.

And at least once a day, I need to hear it.

“Take courage, [Jesus says]

Why? Don’t you see the danger that I see?

Of course, I do! *But . . .*

I am here!”

28 Then Peter called to him,

“Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.”

Be careful what you pray about.

Don't ask God to increase your faith.

If you're on a plane, it's not the time to ask for God to increase your faith!

We often pray that God will use us in extraordinary ways,

and then we’re absolutely terrified when he begins to do it.

29 “Yes, come,” Jesus said.

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.

He walked on the water!

Can you imagine if we had cell phones and Facebook back then?

It would have gone viral.

30 But when he saw the strong wind and the waves,

he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted.

When he was focused on Jesus he had faith,

when he looked at the waves around his feet, pure fear!

But then, it’s only potential faith when the sea is calm,

It becomes saving faith in the presence of the wind and waves.

It's easy to have faith that Jesus will provide for you when you're looking at Jesus,

but when you look at your bank account, down you go.

It's easy to have faith when you're singing to God on Sunday,
but when your boss or teacher or spouse is yelling at you on Monday,
down you go.

It's easy to have faith when you get a good check-up at the doctor,
But not so easy when the doctor says,
"I need for you to come and so we can talk about the test results."

It's in those moments we shout out like Peter, "Save Me, Lord!"

31 Jesus immediately (*underline immediately*) reached out and grabbed him.

Underline, *immediately*.

Aren't you glad Jesus isn't an unhealthy ONE and said,

"You shouldn't have gotten out of the boat!"

Or an unhealthy FIVE who watches at a distance pondering,

"Hmm. I wonder how long it will take him to drown?"

Jesus saves him IMMEDIATELY. Thank you, Jesus!

You know, we're often hard on Peter for his lapse of faith.

But you have to ask yourself . . .

How many disciples were in that boat? Twelve.

How many of them got out of the boat? One.

OK, Gina, you're in the boat and Cree says,

"Hey Jesus, if it's you, tell me to come walking to you."

Do you admire his courage in that moment?

No! You're stunned by his stupidity!

You say, "Are you crazy?"

So, you see, give Peter credit!

It never occurred to anyone else to even try.

We're tempted to look at Peter's lack of faith and his fear and say,

Boy, if I was looking for someone to be responsible for my legacy,

I wouldn't pick this guy!

But what does Jesus do?

He picks a Peter, a SIX to be the ROCK on which he will build the church.

You've gotta love it!

He picked the one person who was full of fear,
because there's no way he could lead without faith.

ONEs can easily lead; they know what's right and are ready to reform the world.
THREES can easily lead; they're the Achievers,
sure they can be successful at whatever they set their hand to do.
But a SIX? A SIX would *never* have the courage or ability to lead –
unless they were motivated by faith.

If you identify with Peter this morning, and know that you wrestle with fear,
then be encouraged.
God delights in you and wants to use you to accomplish his purposes.

The Path to Redemption: Scripture Verses for:

Here's what Paul wrote to a young SIX, Timothy.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

And here's what Moses wrote to his young protégé, Joshua.

1 Chronicles 28:20 NLT

Be strong and courageous and do the work.

Don't be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord my God is with you.

He will not fail you or forsake you.

Oh, Lord, how I want that to be my experience when the wind and waves swirl,
But I know I will have my moments.

I know sometimes I'm going to start sinking and will need to cry, "Save Me!"

Thank God, it is written of Jesus,

If we are faithless [*succumbing to fear*], he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

2 Timothy 2:13

When you're at your lowest, don't run from God in shame, run to God.

I can dare to call fear, fear, and not call it something more honorable.

When you call your demon by its name, you unmask it
and it loses its power over you!

Psalm 91:2 NLT

This I declare about the Lord:

He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;
he is my God and I trust him.

SIXes sometimes assume that their loyalty will ensure the loyalty of other people.

Not so.

Save yourself deep disappointment and only place your loyalty and trust in one place. –
the LORD. All others will fail you.

Now, here's a note by your bedside.

It's not Scripture, but it's pitchy wisdom:

You've survived 100% of the days you've lived so far, so take courage!

If you identify with Peter this morning, take heart!

God loves you and wants to use you in his Kingdom.

**The CORE CONTRIBUTION of a SIX TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD is
Courage**

Because of your life-long battle with fear
you will learn to overcome fear better than anyone else.

A REDEEMED SIX is loyal and capable of great self-sacrifice.
In the end Peter was crucified up-side down.

They can be passionate and courageous fighters for the cause of the oppressed.

They're able to assess the character of the people they encounter.

They are wonderful planners and strategic thinkers.

Their motto is: **Don't be scared, be prepared!**

If you are wrestling with fear today, here's your charge:

Hebrews 10:35

Do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.