Temperament, Character. and Spiritual Gifts – Part 3 Dr. Lamar Allen

- 1. <u>Introduction</u>: Tonight we will each complete an MBTI. Next week I will give you the results.
- 2. <u>How People Take in Information, Make Decisions, and Accomplish Tasks</u>: It is common to hear people say, "every individual is unique, each a product of their individual heredity and environment." In many ways this is of course true.
 - ♦ However, from a practical standpoint, the doctrine of uniqueness is not particularly useful.
 - ♦ Experience reveals that the "how to" of doing things is determined primarily by "temperament" which though present at birth is not fully manifest.
 - ♦ As a person matures, their distinctive temperament is made more and more manifest. The elements of temperament are seen in patterns of how judgments are made, choosing areas of interest, and how information is acquired.
 - ♦ The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) is designed to reveal such patterns. It is particularly useful in considering temperament.
 - ♦ Temperament is morally neutral. The moral part of personality is character which we will study separately.
 - ♦ Unlike temperament, which is relatively constant from birth to death, character is constantly changing.
 - ♦ In salvation Christians undergo transformation that impacts character resulting ultimately in Christians becoming a moral image of Jesus Christ.
- 3. **The MBTI:** is based on the observation that many variations in human behavior flow from a few observable differences in mental processes.
 - ♦ Key differences concern the preference for the way a person **perceives** and **judges**.
 - ♦ **Perceiving** is the process of acquiring information, becoming aware of things, people, events, and ideas.
 - ♦ **Judging** is the process of coming to conclusions. If moral issues are involved, the "judging process" proceeds in the usual temperament pattern, but the input includes principles that are character driven.
 - ♦ Together, perception and judging are a large portion of everyone's mental activity.
 - ♦ Perceiving determines what a person sees in a situation. Judging determines what they decide to do about it.
 - ♦ Differences in the way individuals perceive and/or judge lead to corresponding differences in behavior.
 - ♦ People prefer activities that match their preferred ways of perceiving and judging.
 - Repeated use of preferences reinforces them and develops a well-defined Temperament "Type."
 - ♦ There is no best or worst, no good or bad in types of temperament, just differences.

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- ♦ All types are necessary and useful. Types do self-select into jobs and situations that provide the best opportunities to use their mind in their preferred manner.
- 4. <u>Completing The MBTI</u>: The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator provides a way of gaining insight into temperaments. It is an inventory of personal preferences.
 - ♦ The MBTI is not a test. The MBTI has nothing to do with skills, abilities, or morals. There are no right or wrong answers and no better or worse results.
 - ♦ The questions have no special significance. They simply provide insight into the ways a person prefers to obtain information and reach conclusions.
 - From that data, temperament can be identified.
 - ♦ Please do not write in the instruction booklet, and please make your answers dark enough that I can easily see them.
 - ♦ The questionnaire typically takes about 15-30 minutes to complete.
 - ♦ The results of your MBTI will be given only to you.
 - ♦ Compiled results showing percentages of people in various temperaments will be used in class.
 - ♦ It will be returned next Wednesday.
 - ♦ At that point, we will consider what the results mean.
 - Each person will receive their result.
 - ♦ The statistics for the class will be discussed and compared to cumulative statistics for Americans, for members of PCA churches, for other organizations, and some occupations.
- 5. **ZOOM:** For those watching ZOOM, you can complete an MBTI or equivalent in two ways.
 - ◆ I can send you an MBTI or you can do an equivalent inventory for free online at www.16personalities.com
 - ♦ If you choose to do the online evaluation, I will be pleased to discuss the results with you and answer questions you might have.