

LoveWorks

Part Two: Cultivating and Growing Your Relationships

2 Corinthians 5:14 *For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. 16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

Because attitudes and relationships need to “grow,” we have to pay attention to the “soil” and foundation of relationships. That soil begins with our own hearts and minds. As Myles Munroe taught, the key to being single or being in a relationship is being whole in yourself. My lesson today will look at relationships from the perspective of cultivating our own hearts. We will address the important of having a good attitude or mindset.

“Cultivate” is a farming term. Cultivation is not only about growing plants. It is mainly about preparing the soil and working the ground to raise good crops.

“A good attitude will not always change our circumstances, but it will always change us.” ~ John Maxwell

Attitude is not what people perceive. It is not something we figure out in others. Attitude is your internal disposition. It is something we figure out in ourselves.

Your attitude or mindset determines your altitude, or how high and far you can go. In relationships we learn to navigate attitudes, moods, and mindsets. We should operate at a higher level of relating spiritually, but no one is purely spiritual.

2 Cor. 5:16 *Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh*

According to the Merriam Webster dictionary, the word "attitude" means "an internal position or feeling with regard to something else." Other words often used as synonyms are: "disposition, feeling, mood, opinion, sentiment, temper, tone, perspective, frame of mind, outlook, view, or morale."

Airplane pilots often use "attitude" to describe their relationship the horizon during flight and with the runway for landing.

We have to manage the “version” of ourselves and our spouses and high level relationships.

Ephesians 4:22 NIV, *"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off the old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds."*

Ephesians 4:2-3, TLB. *"Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Be led together by the Holy Spirit to be at peace with one another."*

We have to pay attention to personality types, both within ourselves and others.

DISC is a well understood and widely accepted model of behavior styles. The letters DISC stand for:

DOMINANT
INFLUENCE
STEADINESS
COMPLIANT or Conscientious

DISC measures a person's natural, hard-wired behavioral style. It focuses on a person's natural, most comfortable way of doing things. This model is mainly designed to help each person become self-aware and then to respect the behavior styles of others

Carl Gustav Jung created a groundbreaking model for human behavior in his 1921 book, Psychological Types. Dr. Jung recognized that people can be divided into four main styles. This model is still the most widely used and accepted model in understanding human behavior.

In 1928, William Moulton Marston published a book, Emotion of Normal People. He built upon Jung's work and named the four main behavioral styles, D, I, S and C. Today his DISC model is in the public domain.

The DISC model divides people into four main behavioral styles. Individuals are identified as either **People-oriented** or **Task-oriented**. They are further distinguished as **Reserved** or **Active**. The resulting behavioral styles are called:

Dominance

A person with a Dominance (D) style wants to shape his or her environment by overcoming opposition to accomplish results. He or she values confidence and focuses on the bottom line.

Traits: Blunt/direct; forceful; strong-willed; driven; fast-paced; self-confident

Behaviors: Sees the big picture; accepts challenges; gets straight to the point

Leadership styles: Commanding; resolute; pioneering

Needs to work on: Patience; sensitivity; looking at details; allowing for deliberation

Learn more about the [Dominance style](#).

Influence

Someone with an Influence (i) style aims to shape his or her environment by influencing or persuading others. This person values openness, friendship and building relationships.

Traits: Enthusiastic; optimistic; convincing; warm; trusting

Behaviors: Likes to collaborate; dislikes being ignored; fears loss of influence/disapproval

Leadership styles: Energizing; pioneering; affirming

Needs to work on: Complete follow-through; speaking directly and candidly; researching all the facts

Learn more about the [Influence style](#).

Steadiness

A person with a Steadiness (S) style wants to work with others within existing circumstances to carry out tasks. He or she values cooperation, sincerity and dependability.

Traits: Humble; calm; patient; deliberate; consistent; accommodating

Behaviors: Provides supportive actions; doesn't like to be rushed; tends to avoid change

Leadership styles: Inclusive; humble; affirming

Needs to work on: Adapting to change; multitasking, confronting others

Learn more about the [Steadiness style](#).

Conscientiousness

As the name implies, someone with a Conscientiousness (C) style wants to work conscientiously within existing circumstances to ensure quality and accuracy. This person values expertise, competency and objective reasoning.

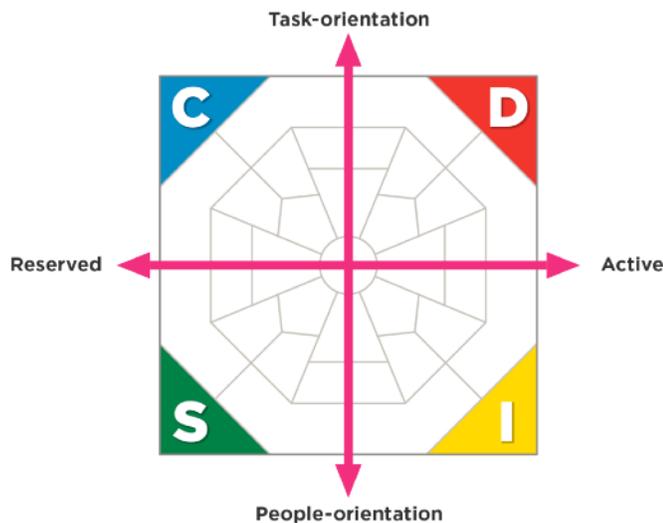
Traits: Independent; analytical; careful/cautious; systematic; diplomatic; tactful

Behaviors: Maintains stability; wants details; challenges assumptions; fears criticism and being wrong

Leadership styles: Deliberate; humble; resolute

Needs to work on: Delegating; compromising; making quick decisions

Learn more about the [Conscientiousness style](#).



ONLINE TEST:

<https://openpsychometrics.org/tests/ODAT/>

Within marriage and high level relationships, you don't want to expend energy trying to "fix" the other person. You adjust and equip yourself to help and support your spouse and friend. Understanding your behavior style and understanding your spouse or friend's behavior styles is a good practice.

1 Peter 3:7 *Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to*

the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

NATHANAEL

Nathanael was an interesting contrast in personality. He was at first negative and a skeptic. He seem to have some experience in Nazareth and affected him. "Can anything good come our of Nazareth?"

Sometimes the prospect of a good relationship is hindered by a poor attitude and negative experiences. Jesus' positive attitude and spiritual focus made the difference

John 1:45 *Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" 48 Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." 49 Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" 50 Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe?"*

While most of us would avoid a skeptic like the plague, Jesus directly chose one in Nathanael. More than the other disciples, Nathanael exemplifies our present generation.

Philip, full of excitement, came to Nathanael saying “we have found Christ, the one who Moses and the prophets spoke of.” People today do not lack excitement. They are hardly impressed with hype. People today are looking for reality – can you deliver the goods? Nathanael said, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” This was indicative of his hurt, his skepticism and his indifference to yet another great expectation that may come to nothing.

Jesus said that Nathanael was a man in whom there was no “deceit.” There is a certain kind of honesty in sincere skepticism.

The sincere skeptic is saying in his heart, “I really want to believe what you are telling me. However, because I have been disappointed so many times before, I will not get excited until I know that I know this is real.”

When Nathanael met Jesus, and when Jesus looked into his heart, he knew that this was real. This was not vaporware, this was the real thing! Nathanael said, “You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

We should strive to “know no one after the flesh.”