

Only You Can Be You, Day 13

SEASONINGS: Flavoring Life with Your Personal Style

The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ... We have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit... Our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it ... 1 Corinthians 12: 12,13,18

If you search the internet for "Houston Mexican restaurants" you will find there are over 8,000 to choose from. There are not 8,000 different Mexican dishes, but each restaurant is unique in the way that it mixes the spices together to achieve their own signature flavor. In today's lesson, Erik Rees points out that God used special seasonings in making each of us and those ingredients bring out the flavor of Christ. We all have our own one-of-kind flavor called our personality.

When we think of personality, we can all very easily think of examples of people who are hot-tempered, fun-loving, strong willed and cool as a cucumber and then determine whether the personality traits are good or bad. Many of us have even probably taken a personality test ourselves and learned that we are creative, moody, detailed oriented or empathetic. The scripture from 1 Corinthians points out that we are all made differently on purpose. If we were all the same personality, God's work can't be done. Our challenge is to embrace the personality we have and as Rees states, "submit ourselves to the orchestra of the Holy Spirit." God has a place for us to fully utilize the personality we are given but we can never fully understand His plan until we submit to Him and follow his leading.

Saul is a good example of this. On his own, he was bold, charismatic and a very passionate persecutor of Christians. When he came to Christ, his heart was changed and name was changed, but his personality stayed the same. He took his passion and used it to further God's kingdom. Once Paul submitted his life to Christ, God used his personality and gifts in a mighty way.

Not all of us can be out on the forefront like Paul. There are very few superstars. The point is that God needs all of us – even those of us who consider ourselves pretty ordinary. God wants to do extraordinary things through our life just where we are.

We just have to look at the Disciples of Christ to better understand this. For example, Peter was bold and brash, John was quiet and faithful, Matthew, as a tax collector would be very detailed oriented. Thomas was a pessimist. Each disciple seems pretty ordinary on their own, but when you put the group together, they spread the gospel of Christ to the far reaches of the world. Jesus called them to carry out his Great Commission because he knew they were the right people for the job.

What is your personal flavor?

- Are you the life of the party or are you quiet
- Do you express your thoughts easily or keep them to yourself?
- Do you go along with the crowd or compete to be the best?
- When it comes to opportunities, are you drawn to those whom others find impossible to love, or are you hard to budge from your comfortable rut?
- Do you love projects that involve lots of people contact or do you prefer to work alone?
- Are you people-oriented or task-oriented?

Whatever your answer, God has called you to do something that no one else can do nearly as well as you can: be you.

Let's pray for God to help you find your flavor:

Lord, thank you for making me as you have, quirky ingredients and all. I confess that in the past, I've complained about that combination. It seems to be human nature to be dissatisfied with the way we are. But I now realize that you are my maker, and you made me this way because it pleased you to do so. Help me to put those crazy components to work in this world for you – no excuses, just full-bodied flavor for Jesus. It's in his name I pray...Amen