

Relationships Among The Brethren Part 1

October 19, 2008

Relationships...

for Your Life and Your Legacy

Big Relationships

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents (2) • Husband/Wife (2) • Children 	Family
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brethren (3) • Church leadership 	Church
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bosses/Subordinates • Co-workers • Civil authorities 	World

These relationships probably define over 90% of your time of engagement with souls in the world.

Big Issues

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honor • Reconciliation • Forgiveness • Love • Submission/Authority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebellion • Bitterness • Restoration • Forbearance • Unity • Spiritual leadership • Gossip/Slander
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouragement • Testimony/Witness

Relationships

Why Are They Important?

- The church is the Body of Christ (Col 1:18,24).
 - God's use of a body to describe the church teaches us that the church is made up of many different but interdependent parts.
 - This of course implies relationships.
- God supports us, ministers to us, and provides for us through relationships (families, churches, friendships).
- God deals with us (teaches us to love) in the context of relationships.
- The Bible is full of relationships. Since we go to the Bible to find out what is normal (as opposed to merely what is right and wrong), we see that various types of relationships are a normal part of Christian living.

Relationships

- What things isolate or separate us?
 - Busyness—Emphasizing accomplishments over relationships
 - Independence—“I don’t need other people; I can do it myself.”
 - Pride (Col 2:18-19)
 - Sin (Pr 16:28, 17:9; Is 59:2; Eph 4:18)
- What relationships does God have for me?

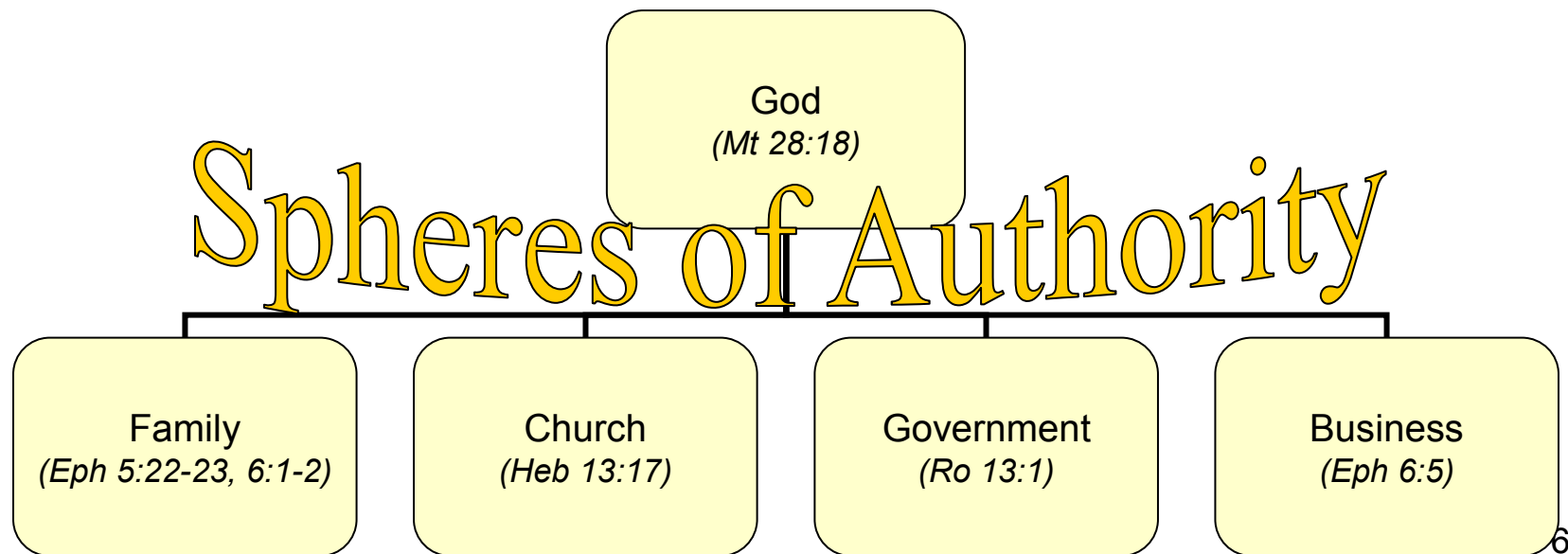


Larger Groups	Groups of Fifty	Groups of Twelve	Groups of Four	Mentor-Protégé	Peer-to-Peer	Alone with God
<u>The Hundred and Twenty (Ac 1:15)</u>	<u>Feeding 5000 (Lk 9:14)</u>	<u>The Twelve Disciples</u>	<u>Jesus, Peter, James, John</u>	<u>Paul and Timothy</u>	<u>David and Jonathan</u>	<u>Jesus</u>
<u>The Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:1)</u>	_____	<u>Jacob's Sons</u>	<u>Jesus, Mary, Martha, Lazarus</u>	<u>Moses & Joshua (Ex 24:13)</u>	<u>Peter and John</u>	<u>Moses</u>
<u>Feeding 5000 (Mt 14:21)</u>	_____	_____	<u>Job and his three friends</u>	<u>Older & Younger (Titus 2:3-4)</u>	<u>Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13-15)</u>	<u>Elijah</u>
<u>Feeding 4000 (Mt 15:38)</u>	_____	_____	<u>Daniel and his three friends</u>	<u>Elijah & Elisha</u>	<u>Paul and Silas (Acts 15-17)</u>	_____
<u>A Medium Size Church</u>	<u>A Small Church</u>	<u>A Large Family</u>	<u>Two Couples</u>	_____	<u>The Disciples (Mk 6:7)</u>	_____
<u>A Large Church</u>	<u>A Large SS Class</u>	<u>A Sunday School Class</u>	<u>A Small Family</u>	_____	<u>Husband and Wife</u>	_____
<u>A Conference or Seminar</u>	<u>A Conference or Seminar</u>	<u>A Home Bible Study</u>	<u>A Small Group</u>	<u>Parent and Child</u>	<u>Parent and Child</u>	_____

*The dynamic of small groups is intimacy;
the dynamic of large groups is power.*

Authority Relationships

- As a general principle of Godly, orderly living, followers are to submit to leaders within their sphere of authority
 - There is no authority except from God (Ro 13:1)
 - We should submit to every authority established among men (1Pe 2:13ff; cf. Ti 3:1)
 - Submission is simply the appropriate response to authority
 - The opposite of submission to authority is rebellion against authority
 - Rebellion is akin to witchcraft! (1Sa 15:23)



Forbearance

- **Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)**

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

- We need to bear with people in at least two ways
 - For **what they do**
 - For **who they are**

Forbearance Defined

- In Wiktionary¹
 - Restraint under provocation
 - A refraining from the enforcement of something (as a debt, right, or obligation) that is due
- In WordNet²
 - patience: good-natured tolerance of delay or incompetence
 - a delay in enforcing rights or claims or privileges; refraining from acting; "his forbearance to reply was alarming"

¹ en.wiktionary.org/wiki/forbearance

² wordnet.princeton.edu/perl/webwn

The Golden Rule

- *So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. (Mt 7:12)*
- *Love your neighbor as yourself (Lev 19:18; Mt 19:19, 22:39)*
- You know how you want and need to be treated
 - Figure out how those around you want to be loved
 - Figure out how those around you need to be loved
 - Treat them accordingly

Love Is Not Easily Angered

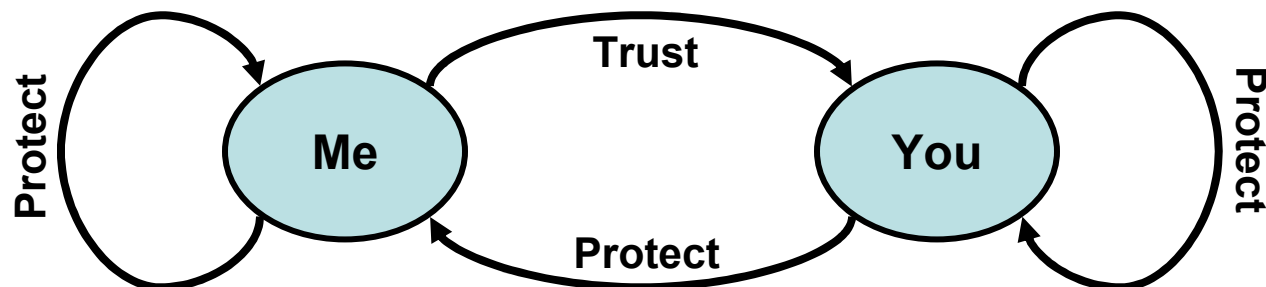
- Love...is not easily angered (NIV); is not provoked (NASB); is not easily provoked (KJV); is not...irritable (GNB)
- Love is not quick to take offense.
 - "A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense." (Pr 19:11).
 - "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins." (1 Pe 4:8, NIV).
 - "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings." (Pr 25:2, NIV).
 - "He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends." (Pr 17:9). Even in rebuking each other we are told: "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you." (Mt 18:15, NIV, emphasis added).
 - "Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt." (Lev 19:17, NIV).

Love Protects

- Love...always protects (NIV); bears all things (NASB); beareth all things (KJV); its...patience never fail[s] (GNB); bears up under all things (Wuest)
- Love protects the other person.
 - The Greek word for protect used here carries with it the meaning of protection by way of covering, as one might think of the way that a roof protects the occupants of a house.
 - "Love makes allowances for the weaknesses of others and is slow to expose them."
 - It protects his feelings; it protects his reputation.

Love Trusts

- Love...always trusts (NIV); believes all things (NASB); believeth all things (KJV); its...faith...never fail[s] (GNB); believes all things (Wuest)
- This goes along with **love always protects**.
 - Love is vulnerable.
 - While we're living out **love always trusts**, we hope that those around us are living out **love always protects** so that we won't end up getting hurt.
 - While this suggests that we should be vulnerable in our relationships, remember too that we should love our neighbor as our selves (Lev 19:18; Mt 19:19, 22:39)



Personality Types

A Four-Quadrant Model

Choleric

The **Choleric** is the **powerful person** who wants to take control of every situation and make decisions for others. Choleric love to work.

Sanguine

The **Sanguine** is the **popular person** who wants to have fun out of every situation and be the life of the party. Sanguines love to talk.

Melancholy

The **Melancholy** is the **perfect person** who wants everything done in order and done properly and who appreciates art and music. Melancholies love to analyze.

Phlegmatic

The **Phlegmatic** is the **peaceful person** who wants to stay out of trouble, keep life on an even keel, and get along with everybody. Phlegmatics like to rest.

See <http://www.ylcf.org/you/personality-overview.htm>

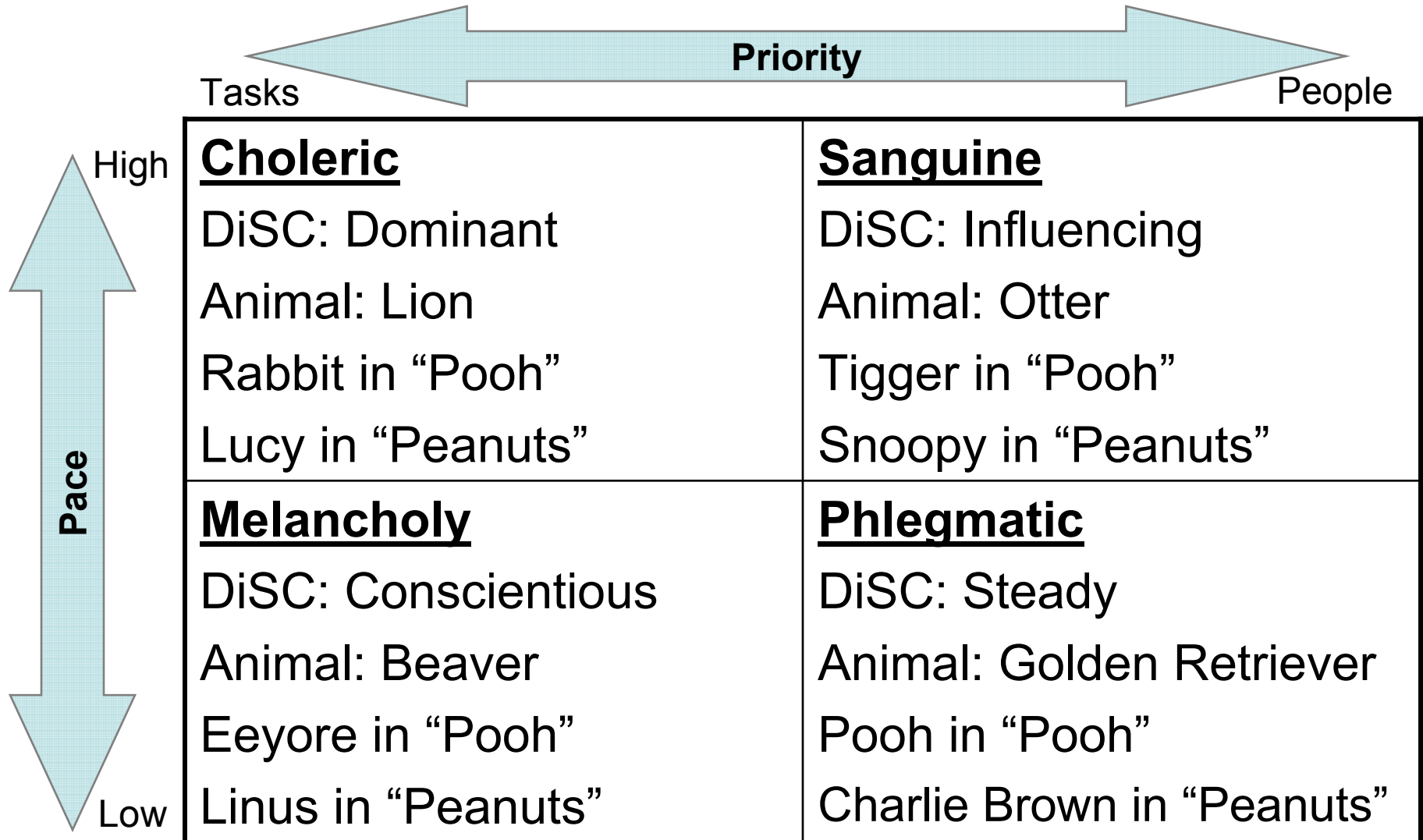
Personality Types

A Four-Quadrant Model

<p><u>Choleric</u></p> <p>DiSC: Dominant</p> <p>Animal: Lion</p> <p>Rabbit in “Pooh”</p> <p>Lucy in “Peanuts”</p>	<p><u>Sanguine</u></p> <p>DiSC: Influencing</p> <p>Animal: Otter</p> <p>Tigger in “Pooh”</p> <p>Snoopy in “Peanuts”</p>
<p><u>Melancholy</u></p> <p>DiSC: Conscientious</p> <p>Animal: Beaver</p> <p>Eeyore in “Pooh”</p> <p>Linus in “Peanuts”</p>	<p><u>Phlegmatic</u></p> <p>DiSC: Steady</p> <p>Animal: Golden Retriever</p> <p>Pooh in “Pooh”</p> <p>Charlie Brown in “Peanuts”</p>

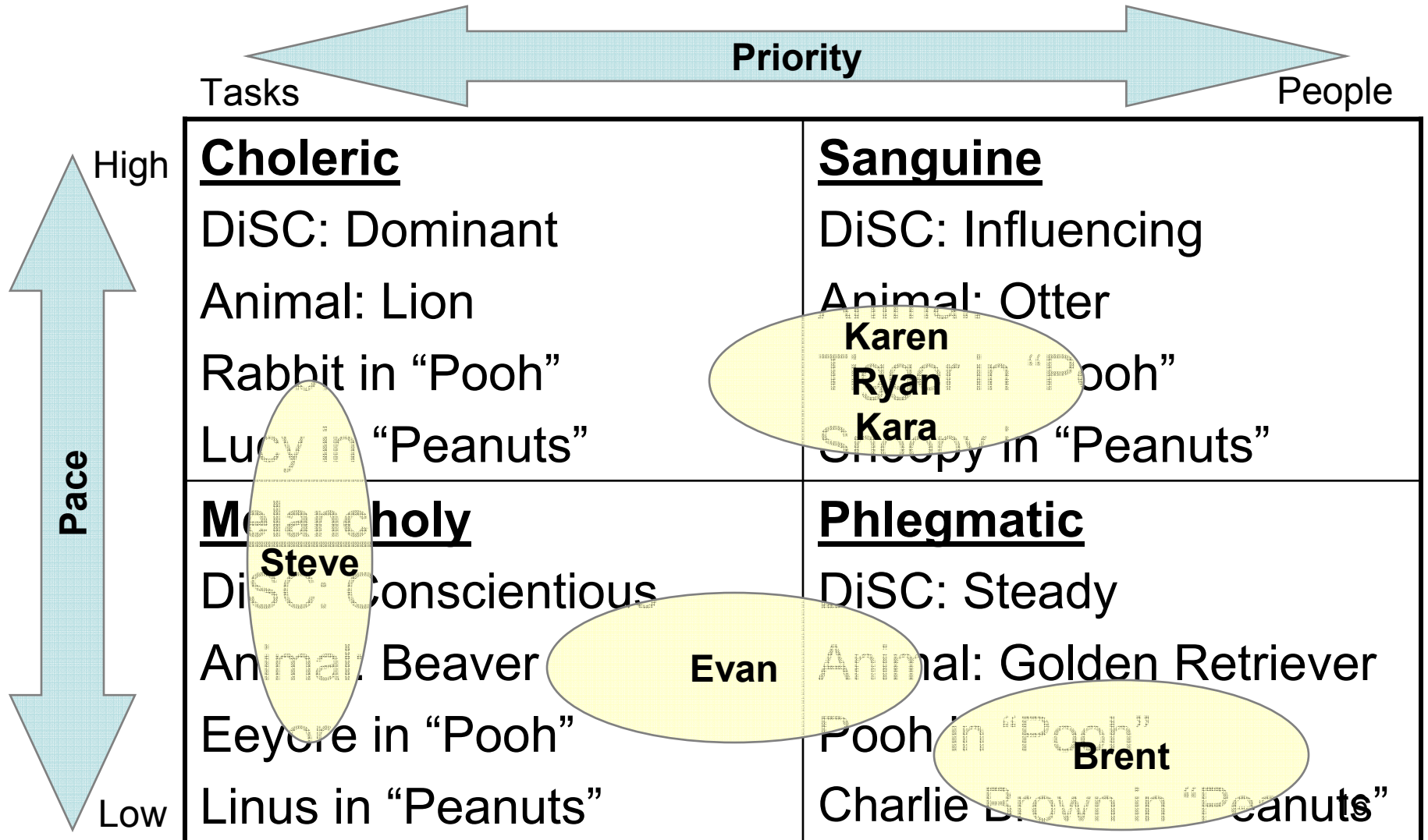
Personality Types

A Four-Quadrant Model



Personality Types

A Four-Quadrant Model



Personality Types

Dominants [Cholerics] think that life is not worth living unless they are doing something.

Expressives [Sanguines] think that life is not worth living unless they are talking.

Analyticals [Melancholies] think that life is not worth living unless they are thinking.

Solids [Phlegmatics] think that life is not worth living unless they are relaxing.

– William A. Glaser

Personality Types

*God could have made us all Sanguines.
We could have lots of fun but accomplish little.*

*He could have made us all Melancholies.
We would have been organized and charted but not very cheerful.*

*He could have made us all Choleric.
We would have been set to lead, but impatient that no one would
follow!*

*He could have made us all Phlegmatics.
We would have had a peaceful world but not much enthusiasm for
life.*

*We need each temperament for the total function of the body.
Each part should do its work to unify the action and produce
harmonious results.*

– Florence Littauer in *The Gift of Encouraging Words*

Key Points

- There are many different kinds of relationships
 - God works in the context of relationships
 - We receive many benefits in relationships
- Conflict is often part of these relationships
 - Therefore, conflict resolution is an important skill
 - However, not every offense needs to be prosecuted!
- There's a lot to the business of loving people
- To really love people (including yourself), you need to understand them
 - It's OK if other people are not like you
 - It's OK if you are not like other people
 - This understanding is necessary to the fulfillment of the Golden Rule
 - This understanding is necessary to loving yourself (love your neighbor *as yourself*)