

Trying to Be Someone Else

Air Dates: March 13-17, 2023

Day One

Did you ever wish you could change your whole personality and be like someone else? Maybe you've had the notion that if you were a different type of person, you'd be much better off. It's a serious mistake we make when we try to be someone we are not.

The summer after my freshman year in college I thought I had the perfect opportunity to be someone else. I was going to be a counselor at a Christian camp where no one knew me, so I decided that instead of being the outgoing, assertive, take-charge type that I had been all my life, I would become the quiet, reserved, "sweet" type of person, just like a girl in my college. You see, it seemed to me that her type of personality was nicer and better liked than mine, so I decided to be like her.

I can still remember those first few days at camp, as I concentrated so hard on being someone else. I had to think about it all the time, so that I would remember to be different. Mostly I just forced myself to be quiet, and instead of impressing people with how nice I was, they thought I was unfriendly. I really tried hard to be just like my friend at school, but let me tell you, I failed miserably. I could only keep it up a few short days, and I had to face the fact that I was stuck with who I was.

Could it be that you are unhappy with who you are and you find yourself wanting to be like someone else? Maybe, like me, you've tried to change your personality and found it doesn't work.

Well, did you ever stop and think about what it really means when you try to be like someone else? It means you think God made a mistake in the way he made you. It demonstrates a lack of trust in God's wisdom; it says you think God was either wrong or cruel to make you the way you are.

I want to encourage you to know that you are unique; there's no one else like you in the whole world. God is so infinitely creative, that he's able to give each of us unique traits and personalities, and he has designed you to be yourself. He wants your personality, your type—you—to meet a certain need in the Kingdom of God.

Good news—wonderful news! You don't have to be anyone else in order to be worthwhile, effective, and happy. There is great joy in just being who you are.

Day Two

Have you ever wished you were someone very different than who you are? A different personality type altogether? Well, if you think about it, that attitude is like a slap in God's face because it says you're convinced God didn't give you a fair shake, or else he made a mistake in the way he designed you.

Scripture tells us that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, that God knit us together in our mother's womb, that he is intimately acquainted with us down to counting the hairs on our heads, and we are each created in his image. Now, just put all those facts in your head and consider what that means.

First of all, God didn't make a mistake when he designed you. You were planned in the mind of God. You're not an accident of nature. You are designed according to God's plan.

Secondly, what you are is like what God is. You are created in the image of God. Now, don't confuse this with teaching which says we're all gods. That certainly is not true. But it is true that we are all created in God's image. That means that God has traits like you and me. Part of God's personality is just like your personality because you're created in his image.

Now, please let that sink into your head, because it is very important that you understand this basic truth of Scripture. It should change your whole attitude toward who you are.

How can any of us be mistakes if each of us is individually created by a good and merciful God? How can we think that we'd be better off if we were like someone else, if we believe in a God who does not make mistakes, and a God who is good and loving?

Can you see how basic this is to your whole relationship with God? If you've been wishing you were someone else, I pray that you'll thank God for who you are, and ask him to help you understand why you are who you are, and what wonderful and good purpose he has for you.

Day Three

It is essential that we believe and accept that God has created each of us to be exactly who we are, and what a mistake it is for us to try to be someone else. It's a lesson I've had to learn—and keep learning—as I've often felt that a different personality would be better than the one I have.

You see, I always thought that my type of personality would have been much more acceptable for a man rather than a woman. I could be described as assertive, outgoing, entrepreneurial, energetic, with leadership qualities and take-charge tendencies. This personality didn't seem to fit in with other people's ideas of what a woman should be, especially in the Christian community. So, I was confused for quite awhile as to why I had this personality.

Then I began to learn that God had not made a mistake, he did not forget that I was a female when he designed me, and he had a purpose for designing me, a woman, the way I am. So, I began, little by little, to accept that God had made me just this way for some good purpose.

And as I've become more and more comfortable with who I am and the way I've been created, then I've learned to enjoy and appreciate who I am. You know, I don't think I'd really want to be anyone else any longer. I like the way God created me.

Now, it's okay to say that. It's okay for you to say that about yourself. Go ahead; say it: *I like the way God created me.* All you're doing is affirming that God doesn't make mistakes, and you are pleased with his creation. That's not pride, assuming your heart attitude is correct. That is simply thanking God for his creativity and recognizing that his creation is good.

God wants you to be pleased with the way he has created you, for it shows that you trust him. It shows that you believe his word is true and that the way you are created is the best, since it is God's creation. Please understand that I'm not talking about thinking you're better than anyone else or being unwilling to change and become all God has intended you to be. But you can appreciate who you are because you are God's unique creation.

So, throughout your day, tell God: "I like the way you created me." Learn to appreciate the uniqueness of you.

Day Four

Do you find yourself frequently wishing you were someone else? Do you often feel that a different personality would be much better than the one you have? Well, if that's true, then not only are you prevented from knowing and appreciating the uniqueness of who you are as created by God, but it keeps you from being able to appreciate others as well.

I know that as I've begun to learn to accept that who I am is not a mistake, but rather a plan in God's eternal purpose, I am able to look at other people with a much-changed attitude. Now those who are very different from me no longer present a threat nor cause me to feel inadequate or short-changed.

Now when I see people whose personalities and gifts I admire, I can just enjoy them for who they are. I don't have to compete with them, I don't have to feel jealous or envious, because I know that they are unique for God's purposes and so am I.

Can you see what freedom and happiness that can bring into your life, when you are able to appreciate who you are? You are free from that foreboding sense that something is wrong with you; you are free not to have to think or worry about yourself all the time; you are free to be involved with others. You are free from the pain of jealousy and envy, and the dreariness of self-pity.

And then when you can accept that you were created by God just the way you are for his good purposes, you're also able to understand that God has made us all very different for good reasons. Sometimes we subconsciously think that everybody should be like us—think like us, feel like us, see everything the way we do. But that's not how God has created us.

I'm reminded that it would not have been good if we were all alike. God is so incredibly creative, that it is no problem at all for him to design each of us as unique people, no two of us alike. How wonderful, how marvelous.

Will you ask God to help you appreciate who you are? Will you ask him to set you free from trying to be someone else? Will you start consciously thanking God that you are who you are, and commit to him that you want to be all he has planned for you to be? That's the way to have a contented and fruitful life.

Day Five

It is important for us as Christians to understand that we are each uniquely and specially made by God for good reasons. We are not mistakes; I am who I am by design of God, and you are who you are by that same eternal plan and design.

God looked at his creation, we read in Genesis, and declared that it was *good*! Since we're part of that creation, we can learn to accept who we are as created by God as good and right.

Now let me add that learning to accept who we are doesn't mean we give up on trying to improve. While it's true God has given me a certain type of personality, it's also true that my personality has a lot of rough edges that need polishing. We have to remember that sin has affected God's perfect creation, and so until we get to heaven, we are damaged by sin.

The Apostle Paul told us we are in the process of being conformed to the image of God's Son, Jesus Christ. So, using the personalities given to us, the gifts and abilities that have been entrusted to us by God, we are to be constantly growing into the image of Jesus.

Remember, that when you can accept yourself and believe that God has made you for special and unique purposes, then you're free. Now the person God has created starts to shine through beautifully; now you begin to see just why God made you the way you are, now you discover that there was a lot

there you didn't even recognize before. God is free to work in and through you, to keep shaping you into the image of Jesus. And you're free to say, "Thank you, Jesus, you didn't make a mistake when you made me. Now, please take what you have made and use it for the purposes you intended."

If you have been trying to be someone else or you feel as though what you are is second-best, a mistake, I encourage you to go to God in prayer right now, as soon as possible. Confess your lack of trust in his creative abilities, ask him to forgive you, and give him permission to continue to conform you to the image of Jesus Christ for eternal and significant purposes.

If you will do that, and continue to do that each day, you're going to discover incredible and marvelous freedom, and the real you God has created will be a joy to everyone, including yourself.