

*What does the Bible say about personality flaws? Are we to embrace our flaws as the world tells us to or not?*

God creates people unique (Jer 1:5).

Genesis chapter 49 describes different types of people who descended from Jacob (Ge 49:1-27): Reuben, unruly (vv. 3-4); Simeon and Levi, violent, given to anger and cruelty (vv. 5-7); Judah, praiseworthy, defeats enemies (vv. 8-12); Zebulun, a seafarer (v. 13); Issachar, works with animals and tills the land (vv. 14-15); Dan, snakelike (vv. 16-18); Gad, defends against all enemies (v. 19); Asher, produces food (v. 20); Naphtali, free (v. 21); Joseph, like a fruitful tree, blesses others (vv. 22-26) and Benjamin, devours enemies like a wolf (v. 27).<sup>1</sup>

Regarding this prophecy of the twelve tribes Henry Morris wrote:

One of the most fascinating and most difficult portions of Genesis is chapter 49, in which Jacob gives his last words concerning his sons and the twelve tribes that would descend from them. This valedictory of Jacob can be considered as both a blessing and guide for his sons themselves and a prophecy concerning future developments in the nation, extending all the way to “the last days.” In some respects it is like the prophecy of Noah concerning his three sons (Genesis 9:24–27), stemming from the actual behavior and character of his sons and yet also outlining the general future of the three streams of nations of which they were to become forebears. Both in terms of genetic theory and of the course of history, it is true that each distinctive population group—nation, tribe, and so on—tends to manifest a particular character of its own (industrious or slothful, puritanical or licentious, peaceful or aggressive, philosophical or mechanical), and that this character is the product of its history and, ultimately, of its original founders. Such general characteristics, of course, do not preclude many individual exceptions in the particular population, but it does usually seem possible to define in general terms at least the dominant nature of such a group.<sup>2</sup>

Believers serve God with spiritual gifts imparted by the Holy Spirit.<sup>3</sup> Each member of the body has a function to perform. Differing personalities may be necessary.

Unfortunately, in fallen world personality disorders occur.

The Christian can be reminded that love (1 Co 13:5) does not behave rudely. It “does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil (v. 5, NKJV).”

The greatest spiritual gift is love (1 Co 13:1–3). Without it, all other gifts are useless.<sup>4</sup>

God’s word contains resources to help one heal his troubled mind. The disciplined (2 Ti 1:7), regenerate man can find peace (Ro 8:6).

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<sup>1</sup> Willmington, H. L. (1999). *The Outline Bible* (Ge 49:1–27). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> Morris, H. M. (1976). *The Genesis record: a scientific and devotional commentary on the book of beginnings* (p. 650). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

<sup>3</sup> Seven spiritual gifts are listed: prophesying (12:6), serving (12:7a), teaching (12:7b), encouraging (12:8a), giving (12:8b), leading (12:8c), showing kindness (12:8d). *Ibid*, Ro 12:6–8.

<sup>4</sup> E. g. tongues (13:1), prophecy (13:2a), knowledge (13:2b), faith (13:2c) and giving (13:3). *Ibid*, 1 Co 13:1–3.

Christians have put on “heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience” (Col 3:12).