

# SACRED PATHWAYS

## OVERVIEW OF POSITIVES AND TEMPTATIONS OF EACH

### THE PROS:

### TEMPTATIONS:

#### THE NATURALISTS:

they see God more clearly out-of-doors  
they can visualize spiritual truths by contemplating nature  
they learn to rest in the beauty of God's creation

individualism - are alone outside much of the time  
spiritual delusion - what is 'received' should be tested  
idolizing nature - could slip into the worship of nature

#### THE SENSATES:

they awaken all their senses in worship  
beautiful, aromatic, harmonious, tactile approach to God  
their emotions are aroused through the influx of sensations

they can become hungry for creating the right mood  
they can idolize beauty and dismiss God  
they might worship worshipping

#### THE TRADITIONALIST:

they are great at engaging ritual & routine  
they utilize images or symbols to assist with worship  
they recognize the need to choose sacrifices

they might end up serving God without knowing God  
they may judge others who do not go to church  
they potentially deify rituals & routine of church

#### THE ASCETICS:

good at engaging solitude, simplicity and discipline  
enjoy being still, fasting and obeying  
love retreats - quiet retreats to nourish their spirit

overemphasize personal piety striving for God's favor  
some may seek out pain as a way to align with Christ's sufferings

#### THE ACTIVISTS:

comfortable confronting evil, injustice, oppression  
will engage social reform/social justice activities  
will choose intercession

becoming judgmental, elitist or resentful  
preoccupied with activity and statistics  
lack of emphasis on personal sanctity

#### THE CAREGIVERS

caring for others/serving others comes naturally  
caring becomes prophetic (a witness to God in life)  
which is a contrast to the culture of today

hold narrow definitions of what it is to 'help'  
serving themselves through serving others  
neglecting those closest to them b/c off caring

#### THE ENTHUSIASTS:

celebrate God and experience the joy of this  
open to mystery & embrace dreams and visions  
pray expecting God to hear them and 'show up'

seeking experience for experience's sake  
equating 'good feelings' with 'good worship'  
may not communally discern what they see in visions

#### THE CONTEMPLATIVES:

love and seek intimacy with God  
excellent at various prayer forms  
will retreat to be with God

addicted to spiritual experience/intimacy with God  
lose balance - too much time in isolation  
won't want to move beyond meditation & prayer

#### THE INTELLECTUALS:

disciplined study of church history, theology, ethics, etc.  
see that doctrine affects our behaviors  
desire to have a deeper knowing

can come to love controversy  
may 'know' instead of 'do'  
can nurture a prideful nature