

Finding Authentic Enneagramic-Self in Enneagramic-Jesus

To begin one's Enneagramic-journey towards genuine spiritual progress, it is not enough to focus on the positive traits that characterize your Enneagramic-self. While not ignoring one's good qualities, one must be sincere and cultivate inner courage to accept the real truth about oneself. It consists in acknowledging oneself as a sinner, caught up in one's compulsion and avoidance, which are as selfish as a typical sin. One's compulsion and avoidance distort his/her Enneagramic-self, and prevent one from being as he/she ought to be. The compulsion of each Enneagram personality type is characterized by a strategy to defend and protect the self. This means that compulsion is fundamentally the avoidance of something. The power of the compulsion is felt in one's life precisely in this avoidance. Often one does not recognize it as a problem, but instead, he/she often labels it as something he/she can be proud of. One thinks that his/her compulsion and the related avoidance make him/her superior to those who do not have them. Even though one is not normally proud of his/her sins, he/she tends to be proud of the compulsion and avoidance characteristic of his/her personality type and Enneagramic-self, without fully being aware that his/her compulsion and avoidance are as selfish as his/her sins. Hence, all nine Enneagram types are "Sin-types", and none is less sinful than any other. Hence, recognizing and accepting the compulsion, avoidance, and the consequent negativity ingrained in one's Enneagramic-self is the first step towards beginning the process of being freed from one's compulsion and learning to deal with the associated avoidance, thereby paving the way for a person's wholeness and spiritual progress.

Recognition and acceptance of one's compulsion and avoidance, and the darker side associated with it, awakens in a person a new sense of self-criticism and self-examination. Firstly, this critical look at one's inner self is not aimed at making him/her feel guilty. Instead, it is intended to help one to attain freedom from being secretly led by the darker side of his/her own inner self – his/her compulsion and avoidance. Thus, this self-examination gives one something to repent, something to confess as sin, and something to make new resolutions about, for the future. Secondly, this self-criticism, and self-examination helps a person to discover that on a deeper level he/she lacks faith in himself/herself, others, and God. It is because of this lack of faith one unconsciously uses his/her compulsion and avoidance to defend himself/herself. The constant compulsive self-defense and avoidance is selfish and self-centered, and undermines a person's bondedness to others and God. Led by one's compulsion and avoidance, his/her strategy of self-defense and self-protection amounts to "self-salvation" because this is his/her chosen way to achieve security and self-fulfillment by his/her own efforts, totally excluding other humans and God from this process. Thirdly, honest and critical look at oneself makes one aware that his/her own attempt to work out his/her salvation through his/her compulsion and avoidance is a mistake, which awakens in him/her a whole new sense of needing salvation, instead of relying on his/her own strategies and resources for personal fulfillment, wholeness, and spiritual growth.

This new sense of needing salvation, and looking for ways to deal with one's compulsion and avoidance outside one's own strategies and resources, can open that person to draw

inspiration from Enneagramic-Jesus, and his Enneagramic personality. Since, Enneagramic-Jesus possesses perfect humanness, as he has learned to cope with compulsions and avoidances of each Enneagram type without sinning, he can be a model for each Enneagram personality type. Besides, being the God-Man, the Divine in human form, he can be an invisible partner and assist a person in his/her own efforts to deal with his/her compulsion and avoidance, thereby achieve genuine spiritual progress.

To achieve this goal, one need to begin the journey into his/her Enneagramic-self, so as to discover his/her compulsion and avoidance, to understand their causes, and to find ways to work with them and overcome them. Exploring Enneagramic-Jesus and his Enneagramic personality would facilitate a person to make the journey into his/her Enneagramic-self. Exploring Enneagramic Jesus implies: firstly, a person identifies the positive traits found in his/her Enneagramic-self in the Enneagramic-self of Jesus; secondly, one becomes conscious of how his/her compulsion and avoidance has “trapped” him/her, and prevented from achieving the full potentials of his/her positive traits; and thirdly, one recognize how Jesus handled the compulsion and avoidance characteristic of one’s Enneagram type without sinning, so as to learn from Jesus and seek Jesus’ help to free oneself from them. This journey into one’s Enneagramic-self guided by the personality of Enneagramic-Jesus can significantly influence a person’s perspective of himself/herself, others, and God, opening new horizons of awareness concerning what is going on in his/her personality, thereby enable him/her to tap into and deal with them. As a result, a person will find way to live a compulsion-free and avoidance-free life, thereby achieve his/her self-fulfillment, wholeness, and holiness.