

Solitary Andrew

The following six traits and behaviors are clues to the presence of a solitary personality style similar to Andrew. A person who has a strong solitary tendency will demonstrate more of these behaviors more intensely than someone who has less of Andrew's personality style.

1. **Solitude:** individuals with the solitary Andrew personality style have small need of companionship and are most comfortable being alone.
2. **Independence:** they are self-contained and do not require interaction with others in order to enjoy their experiences or to get on in life.
3. **Sangfroid:** solitary men and women are even-tempered, calm, dispassionate, unsentimental, and unflappable.
4. **Stoicism:** they display an apparent indifference to pain and pleasure.
5. **Sexual composure:** they are not driven by sexual needs. They enjoy sex but will not suffer in its absence.
6. **Feet on the Ground:** they are unswayed by either praise or criticism and can confidently come to terms with their own behavior.

The Solitary Andrew in Action

Predominantly solitary individuals rarely need the approval or companionship of other people. Self-possessed and self-controlled, they are alone because they want to be alone, not because they feel left out. Free of the passionate need for others that often clouds the minds of many people, they can be quite content standing back and watching others. Indeed, they are often gifted observers of nature and of other people.

Emotionally, highly solitary people are generally quite even. They are not influenced a great deal by either praise or criticism. They function quite well at work; they get down to work quickly and don't spend much time fraternizing at the water cooler. However, they usually do not do well within the political framework of larger companies. But when left alone to do their work, they can put their mind to it with unusual concentration.

They can be content within relationships as long as the partner is accepting and doesn't take their enjoyment of solitude as a personal affront. However, even moderately solitary people may not intuitively comprehend others' feelings or respond to their emotional cues.

"You don't love me!" is a common lament of partners of solitary people. This may be true as defined in the emotional language that most people speak. The more the partner pushes for emotional reactions and a depth of intimate feeling, the greater will be the stress on the solitary partner. To cope, the solitary person will retreat. The partner would be better off recognizing signs of caring that are different from the standard I-want-you, I-need-you, I-love-yous.

Issues of the Solitary Andrew

Solitary Andrews are flighters by nature. Under stress they will withdraw. They dislike confusion. Emotions tend to upset them. In Star Trek Spock was the epitome of the solitary almost robot-like extreme solitary personality. They will withdraw into their cave to think and try to make sense of the world even when their world doesn't make sense. They can be keen observers and highly analytical especially when they are not bound by their emotions. In men they tend to be sequential processors doing one task at a time with great concentration and deliberation. Women with this personality can multi-task but do not like multiple relationship situations preferring to interact with one or two other people at a time.

Scripture for the Solitary Andrew

The disciple John is the epitome of a flighter. In his book 1st John he writes very maturely and keenly to flighters encouraging them to become the godly men and women God desires them to be being mature in Christ. In 1st John beginning in chapter three verse one John writes ¹See how very much our heavenly Father loves us, for he allows us to be called his children, and we really are! But the people who belong to this world don't know God, so they don't understand that we are his children. ²Yes, dear friends, we are already God's children, and we can't even imagine what we will be like when Christ returns. But we do know that when he comes we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. ³And all who believe this will keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure.

Here he seeks to clear up their confusion with the assurance that they are God's children, they do not belong to this world, and even though they cannot imagine what life will be like when Christ returns they will be like him and see him if they keep themselves pure in thought and deed.

Listening

WHY IS LISTENING SO IMPORTANT?

PROVERBS 1:8-9

Listening helps us grow and mature.

PROVERBS 5:13

Listening helps keep us accountable.

PROVERBS 2:1-9

Listening is essential to good decision-making.

PROVERBS 8:1-12

Listening keeps us from being closed-minded.

EXODUS 18:24; JOB 29:21-23

Listening shows that we respect others. It honors the words of others. There is something affirming about feeling that you've been listened to.

PROVERBS 21:13

Listening is more than hearing; it's a connecting with others. It helps us know where they are coming from.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS WE SHOULDN'T LISTEN TO?

GENESIS 3:1-6; MATTHEW 6:13

Temptation.

LEVITICUS 19:16

Gossip.

2 PETER 2:1-3; MARK 13:21-23

False teaching.

EPHESIANS 5:4; PROVERBS 12:18

Insults and off-color stories.

PROVERBS 13:5

Lies.

PROVERBS 29:5

Flattery.

HOW DO WE LISTEN TO GOD?

PSALM 4:3; PSALM 5:3

Through prayer.

PSALM 46:10

Being quiet helps us hear God's voice.

1 KINGS 19:12

God is big, so we expect him to speak with the voice of thunder or lightning or earthquake or fire. But God often expresses his powerful love in gentle whispers. Listen for God's whispers as well as his shouts.

Promise from God: Proverbs 1:23

²³Come here and listen to me! I'll pour out the spirit of wisdom upon you and make you wise.

Unity

WITH ALL THE DIVERSITY IN OUR CULTURE, HOW IS UNITY POSSIBLE IN ANYTHING BUT A VERY SMALL GROUP?

ROMANS 12:5; JOHN 10:16; EPHESIANS 4:4-6

God is the creator of true unity. The presence of the Holy Spirit in the church will bring unity and peace.

DOES UNITY MEAN EVERYONE HAS TO AGREE?

1 CORINTHIANS 12:14-20

Unity is not synonymous with uniformity. God has created us differently, which means there will be differences of opinion. But our common goal is the same—to serve God.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-13

Although Scripture discourages divisions in the church, diversity can be positive if all are striving for a united purpose of serving and glorifying God.

WHY IS UNITY SO CRUCIAL FOR THE CHURCH?

ROMANS 15:5-6

Unity creates a more beautiful worship experience.

Promise from God: Galatians 3:26-28

²⁶So you are all children^o of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have been made like him. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Gentile,^o slave or free, male or female. For you are all Christians—you are one in Christ Jesus.

The Solitary Andrews' Role in God's Kingdom

For the solitary person learning to listen to God and be with others in unity can be a real chore. In fact it can be confusing, something the solitary Andrew hates. But people are messy and lives are often wonderfully chaotic. Living alone is fine, but living with others including God brings fulfillment. This is the basic lesson for Andrews.

Elijah is a great example of a solitary Andrew or individual in the Old Testament. Reading his life will give you great insights to this character type.

Elijah

Elijah's single-minded commitment to God shocks and challenges us. He was sent to confront, not comfort, and he spoke God's words to a king who often rejected his message just because he brought it. Elijah chose to carry out his ministry for God alone and paid for that decision by experiencing isolation from others who were also faithful to God.

It is interesting to think about the amazing miracles God accomplished through Elijah, but we would do well to focus on the relationship they shared. All that happened in Elijah's life began with the same miracle that is available to us—he responded to the miracle of being able to know God.

For example, after God worked an overwhelming miracle through Elijah in defeating the prophets of Baal, Queen Jezebel retaliated by threatening Elijah's life. And Elijah ran. He felt afraid, depressed, and abandoned. Despite God's provision of food and shelter in the wilderness, Elijah wanted to die. So God presented Elijah with an "audiovisual display" and a message he needed to hear. Elijah witnessed a windstorm, an earthquake, and fire. But the Lord was not in any of those powerful things. Instead, God displayed his presence in a gentle whisper.

Elijah, like us, struggled with his feelings even after this comforting message from God. So God confronted Elijah's emotions and commanded action. He told Elijah what to do next and informed him that part of his loneliness was based on ignorance: Seven thousand others in Israel were still faithful to God.

Even today, God often speaks through the gentle and obvious rather than the spectacular and unusual. God has work for us to do even when we feel fear and failure. And God always has

more resources and people than we know about. Although we might wish to do amazing miracles for God, we should instead focus on developing a relationship with him. The real miracle of Elijah's life was his very personal relationship with God. And that miracle is available to us.

STRENGTHS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ Was the most famous and dramatic of Israel's prophets
- ◆ Predicted the beginning and end of a three-year drought
- ◆ Was used by God to restore a dead child to his mother
- ◆ Represented God in a showdown with priests of Baal and Asherah
- ◆ Appeared with Moses and Jesus in the New Testament Transfiguration scene

WEAKNESSES AND MISTAKES

- ◆ Chose to work alone and paid for it with isolation and loneliness
- ◆ Fled in fear from Jezebel when she threatened his life

LESSONS FROM HIS LIFE

- ◆ We are never closer to defeat than in our moments of greatest victory
- ◆ We are never as alone as we may feel; God is always there
- ◆ God speaks more frequently in persistent whispers than in shouts

VITAL STATISTICS

- ◆ Where: Gilead
- ◆ Occupation: Prophet
- ◆ Contemporaries: Ahab, Jezebel, Ahaziah, Obadiah, Jehu, Hazael

KEY VERSES

"At the customary time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, 'O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant. Prove that I have done all this at your command. O LORD, answer me! Answer me so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God and that you have brought them back to yourself.'

"Immediately the fire of the LORD flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones, and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the ditch!" (1 Kings 18:36–38).

Elijah's story is told in 1 Kings 17:1—2 Kings 2:11. He is also mentioned in 2 Chronicles 21:12–15; Malachi 4:5, 6; Matthew 11:14; 16:14; 17:3–13; 27:47–49; Luke 1:17; 4:25, 26; John 1:19–25; Romans 11:2–4; James 5:17, 18.