

Unique Thaddeus

The following six traits and behaviors are clues to the presence of the unique Thaddeus personality style. A person who has a strong unique tendency will demonstrate more of these behaviors more intensely than someone who has less of this personality style.

1. **Inner life:** unique individuals are tuned in to and sustained by their own feelings and belief systems, whether or not others accept or understand their particular worldview or approach to life.
2. **Own world:** they are self-directed and independent, requiring few close relationships.
3. **Own thing:** oblivious to convention, unique individuals create interesting, unusual, often eccentric lifestyles.
4. **Expanded reality:** open to anything, they are interested in the mystic, the miraculous, and the supernatural.
5. **Metaphysics:** they are drawn to abstract and speculative thinking.
6. **Outward view:** though they are inner-directed and follow their own hearts and minds, unique men and women are keen observers of others, particularly sensitive to how other people react to them.

The Unique Thaddeus in Action

Unique people tend to question common beliefs and expectations. Interest in subjects like the miraculous, the supernatural, the mystical, or unexplained phenomena is the norm for this personality type. They are highly spiritual, and they do not close their minds to any possibility. They are creatively curious and always asking: what if...? They also tend to have a deep inner life, act somewhat or very eccentrically, live in their own world, and do their own thing.

For the person with a predominance of this personality style, fitting into everyday, conventional life can be difficult. Others may view them as strange, and this can be a problem in jobs and relationships. They must live life the way they do, however, and frequently regret that they cannot do things in the orthodox fashion. But pressure to conform presents intolerable stress for them.

Two key factors in the quality of the life of a unique Thaddeus are, first, whether they can find an accepting environment and, second, how far they can go to adapt to other's expectations. Not many work settings tolerate eccentricities of behavior, unless the individual has a great deal to offer by way of intelligence, talent, or skills. Some unique individuals can do well with one ear tuned in to their own personal worlds and one outward to what the boss expects of them. Others, however, have a hard time understanding or accepting authority.

Unique people do not necessarily need other people, certainly not to give their lives definition, direction, or meaning. If they cannot find partners who accept their unconventionality, they can usually do well on their own, some are content to experience several relationships in their lives without necessarily finding their one and only.

Issues of the Unique Thaddeus

Unique Thaddeus personalities can sometimes seem peculiar to other people. Happy in their own world they often have issues or sometimes difficulty relating to those in their life that want to see life or the world from a more practical or pragmatic viewpoint. It is not that the viewpoint of the Unique Thaddeus is wrong as much as it might not be seen as mainstream. Sometimes they seem as if they are in a world of their own on their own “Happy Island”. While they may or may not be disturbed by this, it can cause concern or consternation for those that care for and about them and wish to be with them but don’t understand their world or where they are living. In extreme situations their world becomes one of fantasy and escape from reality and the rigors it entails.

Scripture for the Unique Thaddeus

Spiritual by tendency, the Unique Thaddeus has to watch where they place their spirituality or what they believe in. Since they are flighters by nature, John, the epitome of flighters has something to say directly to them in 1st John 4:1-6 when he writes: ¹Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. ²This is the way to find out if they have the Spirit of God: If a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ became a human being, that person has the Spirit of God. ³If a prophet does not acknowledge Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist. You have heard that he is going to come into the world, and he is already here.

⁴But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won your fight with these false prophets, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. ⁵These people belong to this world, so they speak from the world’s viewpoint, and the world listens to them. ⁶But we belong to God; that is why those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception.

John is suggesting to them to be careful with their spiritual focus or mysticism since it may lead them into false teachings, beliefs or the supernatural in a deceptive way. They need to learn to carefully distinguish between false teachings or teachers and belief systems and God’s teachings in scripture. Learning that difference is important to them as well as those that love them and whom they might have influence over since unique people if not thought to be strange can often appear to be and can in fact be wise in ways the world may not understand.

Happiness

WHERE DO WE GET REAL, LASTING HAPPINESS?

HEBREWS 12:2

Keep your eyes on Jesus.

PSALM 112:1

Fear God and trust in him; delight in doing his commands.

PSALM 16:8-9

Happiness is based on God's presence within us, which brings true contentment.

GALATIANS 5:22

The presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives produces joy.

PSALM 119:2; PHILIPPIANS 1:25

Faith in God brings happiness, for God has promised that when we truly seek him, we will surely find him (Jer. 29:13-14).

MATTHEW 25:21

A job well done brings a deep sense of satisfaction and is an occasion for joy.

HOW CAN I BE HAPPY IN THE MIDST OF DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES?

2 CORINTHIANS 12:8-10; 1 PETER 4:12-13

Difficult circumstances help us better understand what Christ went through for us and make us partners with him.

ROMANS 5:2; HEBREWS 10:34

Hope in God's promises of eternal life can make us happy, because we know that what we are presently going through will one day end.

ACTS 5:41; PHILIPPIANS 4:4,12; JAMES 1:2

God does not promise temporary happiness; in fact the Bible assumes problems will come our way. But God does promise lasting joy for all those who believe in him. This kind of joy stays with us despite our problems.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO BE HAPPY WHEN WE HAVE NOTHING MATERIALLY?

HABAKKUK 3:18

Habakkuk described in the previous verses an utter stripping of material prosperity. Then this beautiful verse concludes that still he will find joy in the Lord.

PROVERBS 13:7

Material riches can bring spiritual poverty. Material poverty can bring spiritual riches. It is possible to have both types of riches, but watch out if you are materially "blessed," lest your blessing become a curse.

MATTHEW 6:19-21

Promise from God: Proverbs 11:23

²³The godly can look forward to happiness, while the wicked can expect only wrath.

The Unique Thaddeus' Role in God's Kingdom

Since they are spiritually sensitive and open to spiritual and even mystical interpretations of God and scripture, some of our greatest theologians and influencers of Christianity and the church have been great mystics and thinkers but ones that frequently were not

embraced or understood in their time period. To be a Unique Thaddeus is both to open oneself up to things of God and risk ridicule for your thinking. If you want to go further in your exploration read the entire book of 1st John examining carefully his teachings about spirituality, mysticism, and false teachers.

Heresies

Most of the eyewitnesses to Jesus' ministry had died by the time John composed this letter. Some of the second- or third-generation Christians began to have doubts about what they had been taught about Jesus. Some Christians with a Greek background had a hard time believing that Jesus was human as well as divine, because in Platonic thought the spirit was all-important. The body was only a prison from which one desired escape. Heresies developed from a uniting of this kind of Platonic thought and Christianity.

A particularly widespread false teaching, later called *Docetism* (from a Greek word meaning "to seem"), held that Jesus was actually a spirit who only appeared to have a body. In reality he cast no shadow and left no footprints; he was God but not man. Another heretical teaching, related to *Gnosticism* (from a Greek word meaning "knowledge"), held that all physical matter was evil, the spirit was good, and only the intellectually enlightened could enjoy the benefits of religion. Both groups found it hard to believe in a Savior who was fully human.

John answers these false teachers as an eyewitness to Jesus' life on earth. He saw Jesus, talked with him, touched him—he knew that Jesus was more than a mere spirit. In the very first sentence of his letter, John establishes that Jesus had been alive before the world began and also that he lived as a man among men and women. In other words, he was both divine and human.

Through the centuries, many heretics have denied that Jesus was both God and man. In John's day people had trouble believing he was human; today more people have problems seeing him as God. But Jesus' divine-human nature is the pivotal issue of Christianity. Before you accept what religious teachers say about any topic, listen carefully to what they believe about Jesus. To deny either his divinity or his humanity is to consider him less than Christ, the Savior.

1 John Book Overview

VITAL STATISTICS

Purpose:	To reassure Christians in their faith and to counter false teachings
Author:	The apostle John
To Whom Written:	The letter is untitled and was written to no particular church. It was sent as a pastoral letter to several Gentile congregations. It was also written to all believers everywhere.
Date Written:	Probably between A.D. 85 and 90 from Ephesus
Setting:	John was an older man and perhaps the only surviving apostle at this time. He had not yet been banished to the island of Patmos, where he would live in exile. As an eyewitness of Christ, he wrote authoritatively to give this new generation of believers assurance and confidence in God and in their faith.

Key Verse:	“I write this to you who believe in the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life” (5:13).
Key People:	John, Jesus
Special Features:	John is the apostle of love, and love is mentioned throughout this letter. There are a number of similarities between this letter and John’s Gospel—in vocabulary, style, and main ideas. John uses brief statements and simple words, and he features sharp contrasts—light and darkness, truth and error, God and Satan, life and death, love and hate.

“A good man ... yes ... perhaps one of the best who ever lived ... but just a man,” say many. Others disagree, claiming that he suffered from delusions of grandeur—a “messiah complex.” And the argument rages over the true identity of this man called Jesus. Suggestions have ranged from “simple teacher” to “egomaniac” and “misguided fool.” Whoever he was, all would agree that Jesus left his mark on history.

Hearing these discussions, even Christians can begin to wonder and doubt. Is Jesus really God? Did he come to save sinners like us? Does God care about me?

First John was written to dispel doubts and to build assurance by presenting a clear picture of Christ. Entering history, Jesus was and is God in the flesh and God in focus—seen, heard, and touched by the author of this letter, John the apostle. John walked and talked with Jesus, saw him heal, heard him teach, watched him die, met him arisen, and saw him ascend. John knew God—he had lived with him and had seen him work. And John enjoyed fellowship with the Father and the Son all the days of his life.

The elder statesman in the church, John wrote this letter to his “dear children.” In it he presented God as light, as love, and as life. He explained in simple and practical terms what it means to have fellowship with God.

At the same time, false teachers had entered the church, denying the incarnation of Christ. John wrote to correct their serious errors. So John’s letter is a model for us to follow as we combat modern heresies.

John opens this letter by giving his credentials as an eyewitness of the Incarnation and by stating his reason for writing (1:1-4). He then presents God as “light,” symbolizing absolute purity and holiness (1:5-7), and he explains how believers can walk in the light and have fellowship with God (1:8-10). If they do sin, Christ is their defender (2:1, 2). John urges them to obey Christ fully and to love all the members of God’s family (2:3-17). He warns his readers of “antichrists” and the Antichrist who will try to lead them away from the truth (2:18-29).

In the next section, John presents God as “love”—giving, dying, forgiving, and blessing (3:1–4:21). God *is* love, and because God loves us, he calls us his children and makes us like Christ (3:1, 2). This truth should motivate us to live close to him (3:3-6). We can be sure of our family relationship with God when our life is filled with good deeds and love for others (3:7-24). Again, John warns of false teachers who twist the truth. We should reject these false teachers (4:1-6) as we continue to live in God’s love (4:7-21).

In the last section, John presents God as “life” (5:1-21). God’s life is in his Son. To have his Son is to have eternal life.

Do you know God? Do you know Christ? Do you know that you have eternal life? First John was written to help you know the reality of God in your life through faith in Christ, to assure you that you have eternal life, and to encourage you to remain in fellowship with the God who is light and love. Read this letter written by one overwhelmed by God’s love, and with renewed confidence, pass on his love to others.

THE BLUEPRINT

1. God is light (1:1–2:29)
2. God is love (3:1–4:21)
3. God is life (5:1-21)

John wrote about the most vital aspects of faith so that his readers would know Christian truth from error. He emphasizes the basics of faith so that we can be confident in our faith. In our dark world, God is light. In our cold world, God brings the warmth of love. In our dying world, God brings life. When we lack confidence, these truths bring us certainty.

MEGATHEMES

THEME	EXPLANATION	IMPORTANCE
Sin	Even Christians sin. Sin requires God's forgiveness, and Christ's death provides it for us. Determining to live according to God's standards in the Bible shows that our life is being transformed.	We cannot deny our sin nature, maintain that we are "above" sinning, or minimize the consequences of sin in our relationship with God. We must resist the attraction of sin, yet we must confess when we do sin.
Love	Christ commands us to love others as he loved us. This love is evidence that we are truly saved. God is the Creator of love; he cares that his children love each other.	Love means putting others first and being unselfish. Love is action—showing others we care—not just saying it. To show love we must give sacrificially of our time and money to meet the needs of others.
Family of God	We become God's children by believing in Christ. God's life in us enables us to love our fellow family members.	How we treat others shows who our Father is. Live as a faithful, loving family member.
Truth and Error	Teaching that the physical body does not matter, false teachers encouraged believers to throw off moral restraints. They also taught that Christ wasn't really a man and that we must be saved by having some special mystical knowledge. The result was that people became indifferent to sin.	God is truth and light, so the more we get to know him, the better we can keep focused on the truth. Don't be led astray by any teaching that denies Christ's deity or humanity. Check the message; test the claims.
Assurance	God is in control of heaven and earth. Because his word is true, we can have assurance of eternal life and victory over sin. By faith we can be certain of our eternal destiny with him.	Assurance of our relationship with God is a promise, but it is also a way of life. We build our confidence by trusting in God's Word and in Christ's provision for our sin.