

Assertive Peter

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

1. **Command:** Aggressive individuals take charge. They are comfortable with power, authority, and responsibility.
2. **Hierarchy:** They operate best within a traditional power structure where everyone knows his or her place and the lines of authority are clear.
3. **Tight Ship:** They are highly disciplined and impose rules of order that they expect others in their charge to follow.
4. **Expedience:** Aggressive men and women are highly goal-directed. They take a practical, pragmatic approach to accomplishing their objectives. They do what is necessary to get the job done.
5. **Guts:** They are neither squeamish nor fainthearted. They can function well and bravely in difficult and dangerous situations without being distracted by fear or horror.
6. **The Rough and Tumble:** Aggressive people like action and adventure. They are physically assertive and often participate in or enjoy playing competitive sports, especially contact sports.

The Aggressive Peter in Action

People with this style are born “bosses.” They have an inherent knack for leadership and a driving need to get to the top. With their strong, forceful personalities, they can take on big responsibilities without fear of failure. Achieving leadership positions is their goal at work—these are goal-directed people—and they can be highly disciplined in this effort.

Never ones to back away from a fight; Aggressive Peters function well in a dog-eat-dog environment. They are especially good at assuming leadership at times of difficulty, when sacrifices—such as laying off employees—need to be made. They focus on results, not feelings. They are unsentimental and are not squeamish. They make excellent, interesting managers and administrators. With unflagging energy they create structure and organization, perceive short—and long-term goals, and plan effective strategies. They can see the big picture and can juggle numerous major responsibilities and projects at one time, without becoming disorganized or distracted.

They run a tight, disciplined ship and they demand loyalty, which they reward generously. But they will punish disloyalty, often with a vengeance. Some highly Aggressive individuals experience difficulty in today’s more human-centered business environment.

No one with substantial Aggressive personality style will accept loss or failure and go quietly into the sunset these folks are survivors, winners. They fight their way to the top, claw their way if they have to.

In their personal lives, their powerful, controlling natures can be problematic if they do not learn to share power or to relinquish their need for it when they come home. But they are loyal to their families, protective of an ambitious for them, appreciative of their love and loyalty, and they demand a discipline of their children that can serve them well if it is not too harsh.

Issues of the Aggressive Peter

Since they are leaders by nature and development, they often have trouble following others. If they can't lead they will often work to try to either obtain leadership or go somewhere else where they can lead. If you are faithful to them they are great friends and supporters, but if you cross them they can be a serious foe. They don't run from confrontation and even enjoy it, which makes them strong but not always diplomatic. Sometimes their straight ahead approach works and sometimes it builds up more resistance in others. Under extreme aggravation they may become abusive since they want to remove whatever or whoever may be causing them stress. They must guard themselves here from their own tendencies or impulses.

Scripture for the Aggressive Peter

Since they are fighters by nature their type is seen in Peter's own character both with Jesus and in Peter's writing in the books of 1st and 2nd Peter. In the book of second Peter chapter one verses three through eleven we read the following: ³As we know Jesus better, his divine power gives us everything we need for living a godly life. He has called us to receive his own glory and goodness! ⁴And by that same mighty power, he has given us all of his rich and wonderful promises. He has promised that you will escape the decadence all around you caused by evil desires and that you will share in his divine nature.

⁵So make every effort to apply the benefits of these promises to your life. Then your faith will produce a life of moral excellence. A life of moral excellence leads to knowing God better. ⁶Knowing God leads to self-control. Self-control leads to patient endurance, and patient endurance leads to godliness. ⁷Godliness leads to love for other Christians, ⁸and finally you will grow to have genuine love for everyone. ⁸The more you grow like this, the more you will become productive and useful in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹But those who fail to develop these virtues are blind or, at least, very shortsighted. They have already forgotten that God has cleansed them from their old life of sin.

¹⁰So, dear brothers and sisters, ¹⁰work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Doing this, you will never stumble or fall away. ¹¹And God will open wide the gates of heaven for you to enter into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

By growing in knowledge of Jesus Christ the Aggressive Peter becomes more a servant leader. He or she can then escape the tendency and temptation to want more and more of what the world has to offer and instead focus their great energy and goal directedness on producing a moral life of great character with self-control and patient endurance—two virtues that do not come naturally to an Aggressive Peter but are there only after great work and effort.

Self-Control

WHY CAN'T I SEEM TO CONTROL CERTAIN DESIRES?

GALATIANS 5:24

Our sinful nature often gets the best of us. We must constantly ask the Holy Spirit to fill our lives with his goodness.

ROMANS 12:1

We must truly want to give up the wrong desires we have. If we try to hang on to just a little sin, it will eventually take us over.

WHAT ARE SOME STEPS TO EXERCISING SELF-CONTROL?

PSALM 119:9; 2 TIMOTHY 2:5

Self-control involves first knowing God's guidelines for right living as found in the Bible. You need to know what you must control before you can keep it under control. Regular, consistent reading of God's Word keeps God's guidelines for right living clearly before us.

PSALM 141:3; PROVERBS 10:19; PROVERBS 13:3; MATTHEW 12:36; EPHESIANS 4:29; JAMES 1:26

We exercise self-control by watching what we say. How often we wish we could call back words as soon as they have left our mouth!

ROMANS 13:14; 2 PETER 1:6

We must ask God to help us with self-control. The better we know God, the easier self-control becomes.

WHEN WE NEED HELP BEYOND OUR OWN SELF-CONTROL, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

PSALM 56:3-4; PSALM 60:12; PSALM 61:2

Our extremity is God's opportunity. When we face a problem or temptation too big for us to handle, we should run to God for help.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

It helps to know others are facing the same temptations we are. It also helps to know that God wants to help us! Ask him.

Promise from God: James 1:12

¹²God blesses the people who patiently endure testing. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Conflict

HOW DOES CONFLICT START?

2 SAMUEL 15:1-12

Conflict begins when we don't get what we want, and the only way to get it is to take it from someone else. This leads to disagreement and can lead to open warfare.

ACTS 15:36-41

Conflict begins when two opposing viewpoints are not willing to find common ground.

ESTHER 3:1-9

Conflict begins when we seek revenge.

ROMANS 7:14-25

Conflict begins when good confronts evil. The two cannot peacefully coexist. One must triumph.

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO RESOLVE CONFLICT?

GENESIS 13:7-9

Solving conflict takes initiative; someone must make the first move. Abram gave Lot first choice, putting family peace above personal desires.

GENESIS 26:17-22

Solving conflict takes humility, a desire to see peace more than personal victory.

2 SAMUEL 3:1

Solving conflict involves compromise, finding common ground that is bigger than your differences. If neither side is willing to take the initiative or show the necessary humility to seek common ground, conflict will result in a broken friendship, divorce, or even war.

HOW DO I KEEP A CONFLICT FROM GETTING OUT OF CONTROL?

PROVERBS 17:27

Words can be used as tools or weapons and therefore must be used carefully.

MATTHEW 5:23-26

We are not to “bury” or deny conflicts, but rather to take immediate steps to resolve them.

MATTHEW 18:15-17

Jesus outlines a three-step process for confronting major conflicts among believers.

ROMANS 16:17

Sometimes the best way to deal with conflict is to avoid it.

Promise from God: Matthew 5:43-45

⁴³“You have heard that the law of Moses says, ‘Love your neighbor’^o and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴But I say, love your enemies!^o Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and on the unjust, too.

The Aggressive Peter’s Role in God’s Kingdom

More was written about Peter than any other disciple. He was the leader of the disciples after Jesus. He was the one they often turned to for direction and decisions. He was also impulsive. In his impulsiveness he was sometime right, like when he identified who Jesus was, and sometimes wrong, like when he cut off the ear of one of the guards that came for Jesus. He was the only one out of the boat willing to walk on the water, but he was the one who also went under when he took his eyes off Christ. As leaders, Aggressive Peters can be good, but as leaders with their eyes on Christ, they can be great. For more information or a better understanding of Aggressive Peters read the life of Peter in the Bible.

Peter

Jesus' first words to Simon Peter were "Come, be my disciple" (Mark 1:17). His last words to him were "You follow me" (John 21:22). Every step of the way between those two challenges, Peter never failed to follow—even though he often stumbled.

When Jesus entered Peter's life, this plain fisherman became a new person with new goals and new priorities. He did not become a perfect person, however, and he never stopped being Simon Peter. We may wonder what Jesus saw in Simon that made him greet this potential disciple with a new name: Peter—the "rock." Impulsive Peter certainly didn't act like a rock much of the time. But when Jesus chose his followers, he wasn't looking for models; he was looking for real people. He chose people who could be changed by his love, and then he sent them out to communicate that his acceptance was available to anyone—even to those who often fail.

We may wonder what Jesus sees in us when he calls us to follow him. But we know Jesus accepted Peter, and, in spite of his failures, Peter went on to do great things for God. Are you willing to keep following Jesus, even when you fail?

STRENGTHS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ Became the recognized leader among Jesus' disciples—one of the inner group of three
- ◆ Was the first great voice of the gospel during and after Pentecost
- ◆ Probably knew Mark and gave him information for the Gospel of Mark
- ◆ Wrote 1 and 2 Peter

WEAKNESSES AND MISTAKES

- ◆ Often spoke without thinking; was brash and impulsive
- ◆ During Jesus' trial, denied three times that he even knew Jesus
- ◆ Later found it hard to treat Gentile Christians as equals

LESSONS FROM HIS LIFE

- ◆ Enthusiasm has to be backed up by faith and understanding, or it fails
- ◆ God's faithfulness can compensate for our greatest unfaithfulness
- ◆ It is better to be a follower who sometimes fails than one who fails to follow

VITAL STATISTICS

- ◆ Occupations: Fisherman, disciple
- ◆ Relatives: Father: John. Brother: Andrew
- ◆ Contemporaries: Jesus, Pilate, Herod

KEY VERSE

"Now I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it" (Matthew 16:18).

Peter's story is told in the Gospels and the book of Acts. He is mentioned in Galatians 1:18 and 2:7–14; and he wrote the books of 1 and 2 Peter.