

1-29-15

HOMEWORK: Start having "Couple Prayer" daily.

He talked about the 4 legs of the table with emphasis on "couple prayer". Elder Ballard said it is the "best fire insurance you can have." Ladies do it in a kind way.

Class member: One thing that has helped us with couples prayer it was our New Year's goal. We decided we would hold hands.

Physical contact is so good. It's really hard to hold hands and pray and be mad. You feel guilty.

Class member: [The 10 Secrets to a Successful Celestial Marriage](#). That has been awesome. It focuses on blessings you can have from that. We go over it again. We give it as wedding gifts now. It gets people started out right.

How many of you have gone to the store and want to buy new clothes. You see something really cute. I was shopping for Christmas PJs. I found a t-shirt nightgown. I looked at the size and it says, "One size fits all". I took it home and didn't do anything. I opened my jammies. I put it on. Let me tell you...it fit like it was painted on. I was not about to go in front of my boys with it painted on. One size does not fit all. I learned that one-size does not fit all. Maybe you have experienced this same thing.

Why doesn't one-size not fit all?

Class member: You have been blessed with children with different personalities.

Class member: Differences between you and your husband.

### **Story (Scott Anderson @ Education Week)**

He was a bishop at BYU. A couple came in to his office to be counseled. They were married. They were coming in because they wanted a divorce. The girl was from Australia on a cattle ranch. She was the oldest of 7 children. She grew up running the ranch with her Mom. She is the boss. She was responsible. Had a huge work ethic. He was the last of 6 children and the 5 older ones were all girls. He was the only boy. He was raised with all the girls and his mother doting on him.

She talked to the bishop and said, I get up to go to work. I went in the bathroom came out and he was still in bed. I said, "Hey you have to go to work." He said, "I think I have a cold. I can't go to work." She said, "Buck up!" Can you imagine that? He goes in to

talk to the bishop. He says she is the most uncaring person. She doesn't care if I get sick. How can I live with someone who doesn't care. For them to be married could they be happily married? They had better understand each other. They learned to understand each other. They didn't get a divorce.

When you look at this it's interesting to note that "Tanner 1:1" as I have studied people I think there are about 3 things that determine our core personality. You may read books that say I'm wrong. That's great. I allow all authors to have their own opinion. I think it's good to read them. Filter it through the gospel so you are testing it to be sure it's true.

**1. Core Personality**—I think we each came with our own personality from heaven. We know the prophets, Joseph Smith, Emma, Mary were all foreordained. How could that happen unless they were something up there. Heavenly Father didn't say, "This blob will be Abraham, and this will be Joseph Smith." You know that everyone fought valiantly on the side of the Lord. You were feisty. You were fighters. I'll bet you said some harsh things to those other guys. You were the noble and the great. Some of you are thinking...I know they are, but not me. You are the noble and great. Then we forgot we were fabulous. We spend the rest of our life trying to figure out we are fabulous. We know there were leaders that had personalities of leadership. Some of us were on the team, but we weren't the boss. A good leader has to have some followers. We all chose the right part. We didn't all have the same personality. We were all individual.

With 3 or more children I guarantee you know they aren't the same. I guarantee that one of them is an interesting experience to raise. One is probably easy to raise, which makes the hard one harder.

**2. Gender**—We know that you were a woman or a man before you came to earth. That was determined...a long time ago. We were male or female before we came. Being male and female means that from the pre-existence you were endowed with different attributes. You came to earth thinking different from each other. You came to earth with different responsibilities in life. You came equipped (you brought it with you) to be a noble son/daughter. Our responsibility is to open and use that package here. If you are married to a man they are going to think different than you. When we get to marriage we are going to talk about these differences. You aren't supposed to think the same. You come to a unity of ideas, but you aren't the same.

You have little girls cradling babies. You have boys that came knowing how to make gun and car sounds. You have girls that know how to show love by cuddling up and boys that only know how to show love by smacking you on the arm.

**3. Environment**—I think personality can be influence a lot by environment...social, athletic, educational, birth order. As I get my children together...I had girls then 5 boys and then a girl. The last girl didn't have the experiences as the other girls.

Those things are all factors. Not any one of them determines who you are alone. This is critical: all of these can be modified/changed/improved through the Atonement!! Through the power of Atonement we can overcome any weakness in any area. The goal is to take any weakness we have and overcome them through the Atonement....to become perfect...being whole. I don't want anyone to get discouraged.

Parenting, marriage, cub scout, YW leader...the key is to understand people. We often think...if you think like I do we will get along. You really just want someone to agree with you and want them to be submissive to you. That is Satan's plan.

The idea is to figure out what is inside you and your children and your husband when they don't know what's in them themselves.

You are going to look at yourself and see your flaws. You are going to pigeon-hole people. You use this to know what tools you need to approach these children.

You have core strengths and weaknesses. One color is a natural listener. As you talk to that person they know how to ask questions. They will pull stuff out of you. Another one has no patience for listening. I care that your miserable. I don't want to hear the 3 month saga to get you there. I want to go to the bottom line. If you are a do-er you have to learn how to listen. If you are the natural listener you need to learn how to be more of a do-er.

COLOR CODE TEST by Taylor Hartman You can take the test online @ [http://www.colorcode.com/free\\_personality\\_test/](http://www.colorcode.com/free_personality_test/)

[Color Code Test for youth](#) (printable)

Homework: Study the syllabus section.

Reds & Blues are strong personalities. You are not shy at all. You are both very good leaders. Some of you have a hard time deciding if you are Red or Blue.

Yellow & White are softer personalities. They are easier to trample on. They are easier to break the spirit of.

Red & Blue are both right. They think they are right. They will really argue with you. They argue for different reasons. Reds are right because they are right. It doesn't matter how logical you are. Blues are right because they are morally right. They are very moral. This is right because it's what the Lord said to do. We will not change because this is moral. Red & Blue are not usually good at listening.

Most LDS women are Blue. They want to do what is right. They really want to do what is right. In wanting to do what's right they stop listening. You always say, "I will tell you what to do because it's right. My job as a mother is to correct everything you do wrong and tell you how to do it right." You are hired to 'teach' what's right not 'tell' what's right.

White wants peace.

Blues want intimacy.

Reds want power

Yellow wants fun.

Yellow is your butterfly. Always happy, but never focused.

Go get dressed. Red will go get dressed and be the first one because they want to win. Blue will get dressed because you asked them to and they want to be good. White will go get dressed quietly. Yellow might make it there eventually to get dressed, but they will have fun doing it.

Blues feel guilty about feeling guilty. Your expectation is too high. You use guilt with your children a lot. Then they back pack it for the rest of your lives.

Red

Opinionated, power, dominant, assertive, bossy, arrogant

Parent—demanding, quick tempered.

In charge, have a vision, get things done. We desperately need reds in leadership.

They are project and product oriented.

In a peer group—reds will be in charge.

You bring out different colors when you are mad. You tend to go to a different color when you are mad. I am blue, but when I get angry I withdraw I go white.

Blues never forget. We recall things really good.

Class member: What do you do with a 16 year old that is vibrant yellow and diagnosed with ADD?

If you are a blue parent you lecture too much. I'm sure you would be obedient if you really understood why it's right. They glaze over. There is no one home. They can hear your voice. When you get to the conclusion they tune back in.

Your yellow will just go play...yellow parents. They have a hard time parenting.

Class member: I definitely have a Mom that is blue. I parent like a blue, but I am a yellow.

If you are a smart blue and you have yellow children. You make a job list fun. With a red child you let them choose their jobs, but I want them to be hard. If you can't pick them hard enough I will help you.

With reds we try to get them to stop competing with each other.

Red picks their own jobs. You give them as much power as you can.

Yellow you say...We are going to play princess. You are Cinderella. When you finish your jobs you tell them the next job. If you are a blue you feel like an idiot. If you are red you can say "I'm the queen mother."

White...perfectionism and peace. They want their space without you nagging. Most of your whites are pretty perfectionists because they don't want you coming back making a big deal about their mistakes. They want things peaceful and quiet and kind. The white you can break their spirit easily. They are not just compliant. When you have to correct them with harshness and anger

Red flies off and then they are fine. The white is broken.

As red you parent in kindness and firmness. You handle it in kindness and firmness and then move on.

Class member: I can relate to that. Just tell me once and tell me that I have to do it. When you say it too many times you shut down.

I have a white son. He would shut down. I nagged him about getting his Eagle. He said, "I will get my Eagle. So would you just stop talking to me about it." I realized at that point I realized I needed to give him that part of his life. I realized if he didn't get it I had to be ok with that. He got his Eagle the night before he turned 18.

Your white child has no hot buttons.

Where are procrastinators---Yellows and whites. White hangs back because they are afraid they can't do it well enough. Yellows just don't do it because they will 'eventually' get to it, but they never do.

White's stuff and then they blow. They go a long time.

Study this section to figure out how to parent that child. Look at the column that has their weakness. Parent to strengthen that weakness. Parent to magnify the strength.

Red...parent to allow them as much control as you can over some things. Reds are hot and volatile and not good people. Your red needs to read a story to younger one. Create experiences where they have to serve someone.

White...you put in charge of FHE. I will spend some time in your room just talking. Whites need validation not correction. Whites need 20:1 positives. They need encouragement not praise.

Class member: How do you help them make those things strengths without nagging? I nag and I know I shouldn't?

How do you 'make' them do it? I will do the list. At the end of the list...product...they better be doing everything on that list.

You cultivate listening if you are a red. You work to develop that. Red develops listening by asking questions. You have to really pray for that gift. You have to ask questions to get them engaged.

If you are a fiery red parent, how safe are they? You have to do it enough times that they learn that you are little bit different.

As you study the syllabus you will gain knowledge. Today you got knowledge. Then you have to internalize it. You have to learn what you are. Then you have to learn to apply it. You take your strengths and you magnify them. You take your weaknesses and develop the other colors in strengths.

Class member: All my children are under 10....categorize them, but don't pigeon hole them.

Some reds are born red. Some whites are born white.

Homework:

1. Couple prayer
2. Pray one day concerning a specific child. Asking for understanding, what their needs are, strengths are, sometime during the week go in with each child individually and kneel in their prayer and voice the prayer. In that prayer express to Heavenly Father your love for the child, divine gifts in the child, things you appreciate in the child. The Holy Ghost will bear testimony to the heart of the child of the child's divinity. It will be a sweet experience.

I testify to you that we are different.

Elder Joseph B Wirthlin "[Concern For The One](#)" April 2008

"The Lord did not people the earth with a vibrant orchestra of personalities only to value the piccolos of the world. Every instrument is precious and adds to the complex beauty of the symphony. All of Heavenly Father's children are different in some degree, yet each has his own beautiful sound that adds depth and richness to the whole.'"

Your family is a symphony. Allow each one to play their part.