

Self-differentiation: Discussion Outline

The listing below appears in HOW YOUR CHURCH FAMILY WORKS (p. 91). Duplicate the list and distribute to participants. In small groups, have them discuss how they see themselves — In other words, where are they more undifferentiated than differentiated, and likewise, where are they more differentiated than undifferentiated.

Undifferentiated	Differentiated
Quickly offended, easily provoked, too sensitive, slow to recover	Self-managing, shapes environment, shows resourcefulness
Reactive, instinctive, automatic	Responsive, intentional, thoughtful
Underhanded, covert, flourishes in the dark	Open, light-shedding, aware
Demanding, willful, stubborn, resistant (especially to reason and love), unbending	Resilient, flexible, has a sense of proportion
Think in black/white or yes/no, intolerant of ambiguity, seek final solution, want all or nothing	Have breadth of understanding, allow time for things to process
Blame, criticize, displace, fault-find, have poor discrimination	Take responsibility for self, learn when challenged, define self from within self
Uptight, serious, defensive	Relaxed, at ease, sensible
Competitive, either with or against, see life as contest, contemptuous	Take turns, collaborate, stay in touch even when tension grows
Vague, non-specific, cloaked	Clear, objective, purposeful
Create too much or too little space and one sided solutions	Create space, options, and common goals