

MORE INFORMATION

The delineation between soul (personality) and spirit (essential nature) is what the Enneagram helps us discern.

Unlike other personality systems which give a snapshot of our personality and assign a fixed label to it, the Enneagram is dynamic and has many pathways available to understand and grow beyond our personality limitations into greater balance and wholeness. It is also useful in understanding others in our lives, being able to see through their particular "lens" of personality, thus creating greater compassion, patience and harmony. The Enneagram is used in personal growth, relationships, organizations (like the Church), counseling and in the workplace.

The Enneagram is ancient perennial wisdom, shaped in part by Christian monasticism, and brought into harmony with modern psychological insights.

Fr. Ellis has this to say about the Enneagram in his own life: "A few years ago I began a quest of sorts. I became aware of the fact that personal transformation is all too rare in our churches. Knowledge and even service and giving did not necessarily add up to looking more like Christ. There seemed to be a missing piece. This was the focus of my quest. Through a divine serendipity, I became aware of the Enneagram and began to research it. Of course, my motivation was to "help my people" in their transformation. As you might guess, I quickly found the Enneagram challenging me and revealing patterns I have been repeating throughout my life, with no real awareness of them. The quest for "them" became the quest for "us." I can unequivocally say that the Enneagram has been the single best source of transformation for me. I have found it quite consistent with my faith, and, in fact, a perfect partner for my walk with Christ."

A brief overview of the Nine Types of the Enneagram from the perspective of the basic need of each type. From the work of Enneagram author, Christopher Heuertz (in an interview with The Religion News Service, September 5, 2017):

Type One	The Need to Be Perfect
Type Two	The Need to Be Needed
Type Three	The Need to Succeed
Type Four	The Need to Be Special (or Unique)
Type Five	The Need to Perceive (or Understand)
Type Six	The Need to Be Sure/Certain
Type Seven	The Need to Avoid Pain
Type Eight	The Need to Be Against
Type Nine	The Need to Avoid

You may wish to take an online Enneagram test in advance of the seminar. It may provide a 'pointer' toward which type you may be. If so, Fr. Ellis can advise: frme@gmail.com. This is not required, however. The seminar will cover the characteristics of all nine types.

