

# Loving God Different Ways

The Refuge August 2011 - Adapted from Sacred Pathways: Discovering your soul's path to God.

## 1. NATURALISTS: Loving God Through Nature



- Learn best God lessons in the outdoors.
- Can visualize scriptural truths, see God more clearly & learn to rest in the outdoors.
- Feel free & unconstricted outside.

*Dangers: Individualism, spiritual delusion, idolizing nature*

## 2. SENSATES: Loving God Through Sensates



- Connect with God through sight, smell, taste, touch, and sound.
- Inspired by tangible experiences that connect with the senses (see God in art, feel textures, listen to music, smell perfume, taste food).

*Dangers: Worshipping without conviction, worshipping worship, idolizing beauty.*

## 3. TRADITIONALISTS: Loving God Through Ritual & Symbol



- Value rituals, symbols, and liturgical practices.
- Appreciate reading or saying specific prayers.
- High value on the beauty of the church calendar, including the practices of Lent and Advent.

*Dangers: Serving God without knowing God, judging others, repeating mechanically.*

## 4. ASCETICS: Loving God Through Silence & Solitude



- Love being alone with God
- Value simplicity.
- Make room for quiet.
- Like to fast and pray, distracted by senses.

*Dangers: Overemphasizing God's piety, seeking pain for pain's sake, seeking to gain God's favor.*

## 5. ACTIVISTS: Loving God Through Confrontation



- Spiritually nourished through the battle of a "cause"
- Connect with God through social activism, advocating on behalf of others.
- Offer time and energy to create change.

*Dangers: Becoming judgemental, ambition, elitism, resentment toward the not-as-passionate.*

## 6. CAREGIVERS: Loving God Through Loving Others



- Love to help, listen, care for others in a variety of ways including listening, actively helping, repairing broken things for others.
- Feel close to God when actively engaged with people.

*Dangers: Judging others who aren't helping, serving ourselves by serving others, holding narrow definitions, neglecting those closest to us.*

## 7. ENTHUSIASTS: Loving God Through Mystery & Celebration



- Love getting caught up in worship experiences.
- Look for movements of God--both big and small.
- Expectant about God's power & possibility, dreams & visions.

*Dangers: Seeking experience for experience sake, independent, equating "good feelings" with "good worship"*

## 8. CONTEMPLATIVES: Loving God Through Adoration



- Love to rest in God's presence.
- Value spending quality time connecting with God through different forms of prayer including centering prayer, intercessory prayer, meditative prayers.

*Dangers: Losing balance, forgetting action, getting addicted to spiritual experience,*

## 9. INTELLECTUALS: Loving God With the Mind



- Love the Bible, systematic theology, and creeds.
- Value beliefs about God.
- Stimulated by Bible studies, lectionaries, and historical texts as well as philosophical conversations about God.

*Dangers: Loving controversy, knowing rather than doing, being proud.*

## 10. HEALERS: Loving God Through Recovery



- Feel close to God when I am powerless & desperate.
- Experience connection with God through the principles of the 12 steps
- Find God's love through connecting with own and others pain.

*Dangers: Judgemental, focus on pain instead of joy, singularly focused*

**1. Naturalists:  
Loving God Through  
Nature**

**2. Sensates  
Loving God Through  
Sensates**

**3. Traditionalists  
Loving God Through  
Ritual & Symbol**

**4. Ascetic  
Loving God Through  
Silence & Solitude**

**5. Activists:  
Loving God Through  
Confrontation**

**6. Caregivers:  
Loving God Through  
Loving Others**

**7. Enthusiasts:  
Loving God Through  
Mystery & Celebration**

**8. Contemplatives:  
Loving God Through  
Adoration**

**9. Intellectuals:  
Loving God With the  
Mind**

**10. Healers:  
Loving God Through  
Recovery**