

ISFJ "SERVERS" *'TULIP'

*(excerpted from *Blending Temperaments* book)

AS AN ISFJ you join six out of every one hundred people. Your primary desire is to be of service and to minister to individual needs. ISFJs carry a sense of history—keep up with past events and relationships. You value conservation of money and possessions and like tradition. Not showy, you believe work is good and that play must be earned. You are willing to work long, long hours and when you undertake a task, you'll complete it if at all possible. Your ethic is "work, it must be done." Your opposite believes, 'work, it must be fun'.

You like to do things the same way and according to the rules. You rarely question an established procedure as long as it is efficient and effective. When others violate or ignore standard operating procedures or how the rule book stipulates, you are provoked. However, you may not mention your irritation, but the annoyance is turned inward causing fatigue and often anxiety.

ISFJs are super-dependable and are seldom happy working in situations where rules are constantly changing. Your major need is to be of service to others; nursing, teaching, secretarial, services, medical practice, librarian, middle management administrative jobs, etc.—relating to people who need personal help. ISFJs render service gently and helpfully. When the recipient is no longer in need, your relationship may change toward them. ISFJs delight in assisting the underdog and can handle better than others thankless service.

Your type has an extraordinary sense of responsibility and an outstanding tolerance for carrying out repetitive routines. ISFJs would rather take care of the more practical concerns rather than speculate about ideas concerning the unknown

ISFJs are down to earth; aware of the value of material resources; abhor wasting or misusing material and resources; prefer to save something for a rainy day; prepare for emergencies, etc...

ISFJs are uncomfortable in positions of authority because they tend to do all the work themselves rather than insist that others do their part. Consequently, ISFJs are frequently overworked.

ISFJs are family people; make excellent homemakers & parents; usually are meticulous house, groundskeepers and expect children to conform to rules of society; dislike putting on of airs; like quiet friends rather than boisterous ones; are often good cooks.

ISFJs are frequently misunderstood and undervalued. Their contributions are often taken for granted; too often taken for granted. This can cause an ISFJ to harbor feelings of resentment, and this bottled up emotion can gnaw inwardly, causing the ISFJ much undeserved suffering.

ISFJ's like to get things done—and right. ISFJs are loyal to an institution and may get impatient with delayed projects due to someone's dragging feet.

ISFJ's like to be appreciated for the product they produce. Caution, carefulness, thoroughness, and accuracy of work are valued. Your type enjoys comment about what he/she has produced, especially if product/or service meets the standards set forth. Your type like to be recognized as a responsible, loyal and industrious person. Even though you need recognition, you have a difficult time showing your pleasure when it is given.

THE INDIVIDUAL LETTERS MEAN...

I •INTROVERSION—an inborn trait which indicates that you prefer privacy and quiet with a little bit of people. Introverts make up 25% of our world, so you are in a minority. You think before you speak; make few verbal errors; say what you mean. Being around people for long periods exhausts you.

S •SENSING—indicates that your favorite information gathering involves using the senses—seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, smelling. It is reflected in a desire for physical routine; dislike for changes; collect, respect, and remember facts. You base your decisions on obvious black and white facts rather than possibilities based on "What if?" and "How about?" Sensing means you probably are more comfortable working with your hands than with ideas. You like color, texture, line, detail. Sensing preference claims 75% of the world.

F •FEELING—means that your decisions most often consider other people. You are warm, easily moved, compassionate; must have harmony; are sensitive to criticism and appreciation. People are apt to take advantage of your warm-heartedness. You first find out how someone else feels, then you make your decision. Fifty percent of the world prefers making feeling—emotional—decisions. Almost considered a female trait, four out of ten men also prefer feeling decisions. Feeling deciders are wise to consult with a thinking (logical decider) person who makes sharper decisions based only on facts.

J •(Judging) STRUCTURED—indicates that you use warm decision making on the world. ISFJs use feeling decision making rather than sensing information gathering on the outside world which also determines their preferred lifestyle, that of structure. ISFJs like an orderly, planned day compared to a spontaneous, unplanned one. You like to know what is expected of you ahead of time. You have to get all your work done before you can enjoy playing or doing something just for enjoyment. However, being an introvert, your favored process is really your sensing process or your fact gathering. This you reserve for your private time. That's when you build, read, watch TV, draw, paint, listen to music, etc...

ISFJ s, along with ISTJs and ESTJs, keep the world's feet on the ground. You are a unique blend which the world needs badly. Just don't let the rest of us take advantage of your unending service. The world is richer for having you.

*In God's flower-garden, an ISFJ is a *tulip*—
Brilliantly colored, steady;
Organized Servers

TIPS ON TEMPERAMENT MANAGEMENT

ISFJ "Servers" – * 'Tulip'

Temperament does NOT label or limit a person, but rather frees one to be who they were designed to be. Discovering temperament completely changes some peoples' view of themselves and others, improving their self esteem and giving them a new lease on life. Others who have not struggled with low self worth, having never been put in a box, just appreciate knowing the legitimate differences in people, and make few immediate adjustments.

Temperament does not determine attitudes. Two people sharing the same temperament preferences may exhibit very different dispositions. Temperament can be compared to musical chords in various keys... distinctive in their own right, but enhanced when blended with tones from other keys. The more skilled the musician, the more beautiful the melody.

Occasionally people will use temperament preferences to excuse inappropriate or tactless behavior such as:

- "Don't fault me for giving you the silent treatment; I'm an Introvert."
- "I'm late, but it's OK; I'm Spontaneous".
- "You know how Extraverts are; we can't help but ask personal questions."
- "I have every right to do this job differently each time because I'm an Intuitive."
- "I've always done it this way and that's the way Sensing people are."

Temperament is a wonderful tool, but is not to be used as a hammer to beat someone over the head. Some people dislike being analyzed, categorized or discussed. Respect their privacy.

You are more than just an ISFJ. You are like a house with many rooms, acting and responding a little differently depending on which room you're in, with whom and under what circumstances.

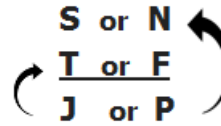
Every normal person is a blend of reserved/cautious Introversion; outgoing/confident Extraversion; fact & figures/hands-on Sensing; ideas & possibility iNtuitive; organized/closure Structure (J); open ended/crises sPontaneous (P). Temperament merely identifies our most natural or favorite way of acting or responding to people and situations

Everyone Extraverts their last letter: 'J' or 'P'. 'J' reflects the decision making preference—Thinking or Feeling; 'P' reflects information gathering preference—Sensing or iNtuition.

Introverts' last letter *happens* to be their second favorite preference, but because it is used on the world, it becomes their best developed function.

 Extracted from *Self-Esteem—Gift From God*, (Smyth & Helwys). Other related titles: *Coaching Kids—Practical Tips for Effective Communication* by Jim and Ruth Ward (Smyth & Helwys);

This final column explains the order which individuals access their four preferences. Although the information is beneficial, not everyone desires to digest it fully. Hopefully, a quick reading will reveal understanding for behavior. Don't miss the last paragraph's thumb-nail for your temperament.



Introverts prefer to reserve use of their first and favorite preference for private use. Since Introverts are forced to use their second preference through Extraversion, they develop both the first and second functions.

Extraverts' last letter is their first and favorite preference which they easily Extravert on the world. However, since Extraverts prefer to use their favorite preference on the world, they often neglect developing their second preference.

Opposite our first preference is our fourth (least) preference.

Opposite our second preference is our third preference..

Purposely using less preferred preferences encourages healthy balance and enables better handling of different situations more wisely—produces a clearer and more beautiful melody. We can get "visas" anytime to enter the camps of our less preferred functions. Even though we will feel strange or awkward as we consult the third and fourth functions—our shadow side camps—we'll benefit from the practice and use of those helpers.

I
 S 1 N 4
 F 2 T 3
 J P

THUMB-NAIL:

As an ISFJ, you Extravert your second preference (Feeling decisions) on others which causes the world to see you as a warm decision-maker wanting closure. You may say "no" just to provide private time for your first and favorite preference—Sensing. Although you seem to like to make decisions, you enjoy crafts/hobbies/sports, etc., more. Thinking logic (3rd) and iNtuition (4th) will be your most difficult preferences to consult and use.

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