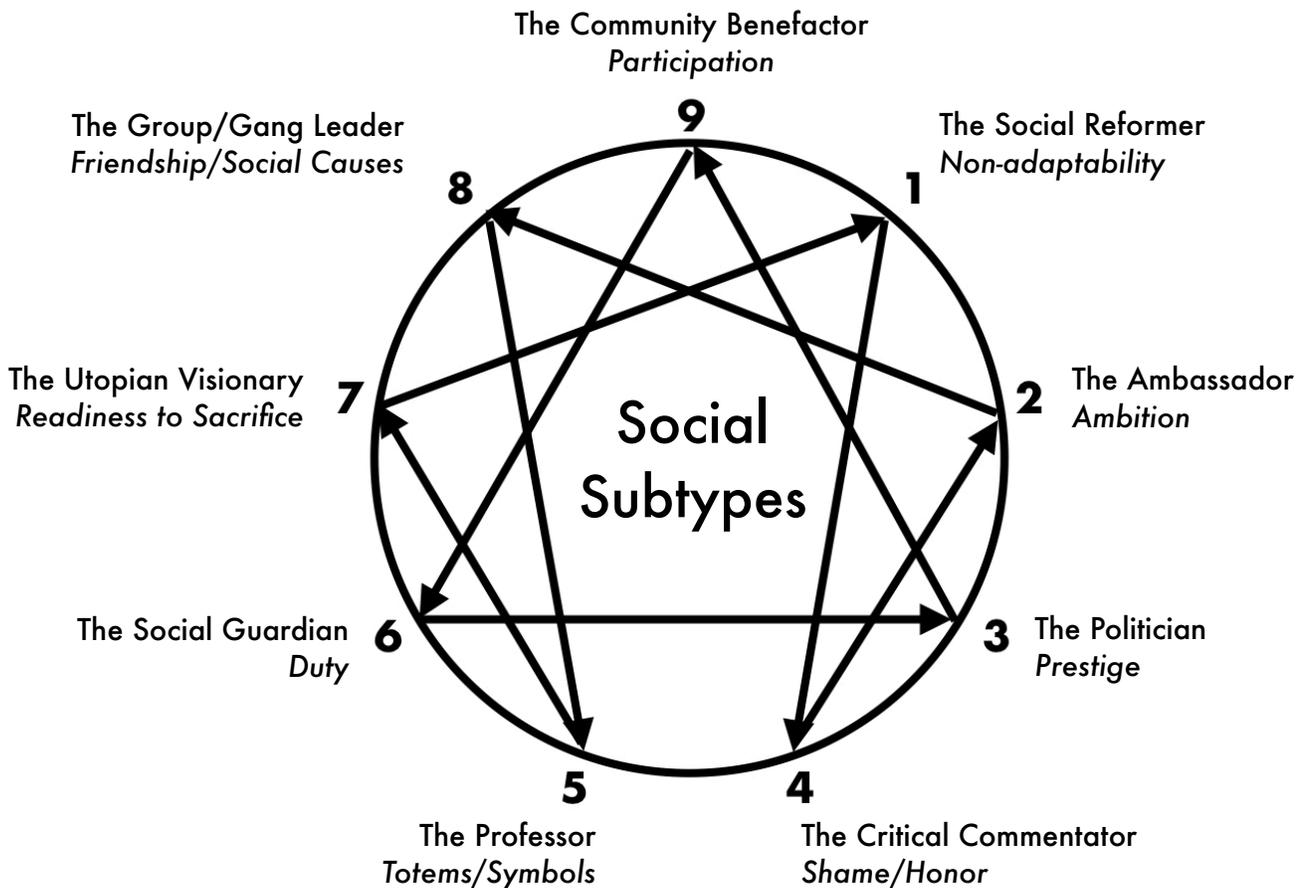


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Using the Enneagram for Personal Growth



Social Subtypes: How we create social structures within communities.

Ephesians 2:19-22

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. **21** In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. **22** And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

TYPE ONE: Non-Adaptability

Social Ones will never identify themselves with a group unconditionally if they believe that group has a social system that is defective. They couldn't stand the thought of covering up such defects. They are often constant reformers of the system, with a tendency to moralize such efforts. They are quite friendly and energetic on their own turf, but their emphasis on doing everything "the right way" can make it harder for them to adapt to new situations, or can generate resentment toward others acting "incorrectly." They do not want those in charge to have anything with which to give them reproach. Their standard position is one of "critical solidarity." "Yes, but..."

TYPE TWO: Ambition

Social Twos themselves do not need to be successful, but they want to play an important role in the lives of significant people. They will seek out such people, and be close to them. They gain self-esteem through both social approval and visible accomplishments. Their ability to know the needs of others helps them to create for themselves an important role within an organization or cause. Their alliances matter to them more than taking center stage themselves.

TYPE THREE: Prestige

Social Threes can form a consensus before a problem has even been discussed. Depending on how healthy they are, Threes can either provide social leadership of genuine benevolence, or they can get caught up in self-aggrandizement through propaganda and image-projecting. Threes want to succeed. They are trendsetters and opinion-makers and always have a feel for what's going on. Because they can change their way of being in an instant, they can maintain a good public image. Winning people's approval is of great importance to them.

TYPE FOUR: Honor/Shame

Social Fours are often caught in a struggle between the need for individual authenticity and the need to meet social expectations. In a group, they can take on the role of an emotional truth-teller. Social Fours may feel ashamed without knowing why. They want to be understood, but also fear that if someone knew their actual thoughts and feelings, they might be rejected. They also want their outward appearance to be accepted. They may turn on a high level of social charm to relieve some of the social pressure they feel.

TYPE FIVE: Totems/Symbols

Social Fives want to belong to some kind of "in-group." They have a hunger for knowledge mastery of all symbols and languages of a particular group (totems). They value people within their group especially, and are fond of a competent "guru" when one is available in such a setting because they want acknowledgement from the true masters of their group. They enjoy insider code language and jargon. They strive for titles, degrees, and other symbols of esoteric mastery and significance. They may become trapped in the role of an observer or learned teacher and overemphasize the role of analysis, creating an obstacle from their participation with others.

TYPE SIX: Duty

Social Sixes contribute to the group through honoring their duty and obeying the laws. They want others to approve of how they've contributed. They are sensitive about minor rule violations which could weaken the system. Social Sixes are generally conservative and respond to innovation with great anxiety. They want to have clear agreements with friends and colleagues. Duty for them is both a calling and a burden. They want to keep the group together, but may feel ambivalent about how well they belong, depending on the behaviors of the other group members.

TYPE SEVEN: Limitation/Sacrifice

Sevens are willing to make great sacrifices for their family, group, company, or nation. They believe all restrictions and obstacles are only temporary steps that will ultimately lead to everyone being happy again, with new opportunities waiting. They harness themselves to the greater good of the group, which leads to a sense of self-sacrifice. Sevens are keenly aware that all sacrifices may limit their own possibilities, but stand ready to do this for the group, if they believe in both the cause and the need.

TYPE EIGHT: Friendship/Social Causes

Social Eights will usually find their way toward group leadership. The group's needs help them to mediate their anger or aggression, and harness their passion for a common agenda. They will show loyalty to friends and causes in a way that helps them to lay down their personal feelings and agendas. Social Eights value harmonious relationships. They do want everyone to be happy and feel there is no injustice present. They cultivate their friendships and give generously to those they care about, as well as to those who are weaker within a community, who can rely on the strength of Eights.

TYPE NINE: Participation

The Social Nines want to be part of what is going on, and to feel they belong. They enjoy being connected to a community which provides them with energy from others who surround them. They can show great leadership and selfless contribution for the common good, but if they are less healthy, they may lose sight of priorities through a comfortable role or through getting caught up in less productive activities. They may initially give only part of their energy to group activities until they learn how to participate more actively and completely.