

9 the peacemaker

healer & comforter

MOTIVATION Nines are motivated by a desire to be at peace & conflict free.

FEAR Nines fear conflict, separation & loss.

GROWTH WORK

IN HEALTH

Pulls from the positive traits of a three:
Assertive
Present
Energetic
Confident

IN STRESS

Pulls from the negative traits of a six:
Anxious
Paranoid
Defensive
Self-Doubting

TRAITS

STRENGTH

Amiable
Open-Minded
Optimistic
NonJudgemental
Peaceful
Good Listeners
Supportive

WEAKNESS

Conflict Avoidant
Indecisive
Unassertive
Passive/Aggressive
Stubborn
Insecure
Forgetful

1 Corinthians 13:4 & 5- Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

Nines will do almost anything to avoid conflict. They rarely attach to their own way of doing things and can see other's point of view easily. They are not selfish and can easily help others feel included. Nines don't want to assert their opinions in case it may offend someone or endanger their relationships. They can be passive aggressive.

Are you a Nine?

- Are you typically happy to let other people in the group decide what to do?
- Do you often think of yourself and your opinion last, but also long to be heard?
- When overwhelmed by people's expectations, do you start to get more stubborn and push back quietly?
- Do you wish you could escape to a peaceful and calmer inner world when life gets to be too much?
- When people pressure you for your opinion, does it give you anxiety?
- Are you able to hold many different perspectives at the same time?
- Is it sometimes easier to reminisce about the past, instead of working on the task at hand?
- Do people feel comfortable around you and see you as a safe space?
- Do you have trouble believing that you have something to contribute?
- Do you value routine and feel out of sorts when things aren't going smoothly?

(Eddy, pg 152)

Childhood Wound

Many Nines describe a happy childhood but one where their needs and preferences were or were perceived to be overlooked. They felt like their opinions didn't matter as much as the opinions of others. Since feeling forced to lessen their own needs, they learned to merge with the needs of others. They began to mediate the problems, arguments, and discussions of others. Accepting the opinions of others as their own.

Nines who grew up in a tumultuous environment learned that if they were less demanding and low maintenance, they could protect themselves while calming their caretakers. They learned that the best way to keep harmony was to disappear and not cause any trouble. They came to believe that making their needs known would cause more trouble than it was worth.

At Their Best & Worst

Healthy Nines create and maintain peace in the world around them. “They use their patient, levelheaded approach to mediate conflicts and to soothe others. They are often highly imaginative, inspiring others with a healing, positive vision of life.” (Rio, Hudson, pg 323) They are serene, kind and present.

Average Nines will go along with others to keep the peace. They are less likely to voice their opinion and opt for adopting the opinions of those around them. They may deflect the importance of their problems, hold on to wishful thinking and suppress their anger.

Unhealthy Nines may begin to deny reality and withdraw into themselves. They will block their awareness of any problem, instead focus on keeping other people happy. Losing their own needs and preferences, these Nines will become depressed, numb and helpless.

The Wings of a Nine

Nines with an Eight wing (9w8) are more energetic and confident. They have a much easier time being clear and direct about their thoughts. This place on the Enneagram is possibly the most contradictory combination. Because the Nine thrives on peace and the Eight lives for intense connection, 9w8s can face a complex inner battle. The author of *The Road Back to You* shares this experience from her daughter, a 9w8: “Mom, I’m in so much trouble. My Eight wing just did a bunch of stuff it’s going to take three weeks for my Nine to clean up.” They may have more explosive tempers than other Nines but are quicker to make amends.

More principled and modest the Nines with a One wing (9w1) make good leaders. They have a high standard of integrity and contain a level of steadfastness. They are orderly and introverted. They are more focused than other nines and can stay on task, able to accomplish more. They can be critical and passive aggressive, getting involved in busyness, they will detach from those around them.

What Nines can do to have better relationships with others

Learn to be honest and open with your thoughts. Do not fall back on passive aggressive behaviors like avoidance and procrastination. If you voice your disagreement upfront, you will be able to express it with less angst than if you let it build over time.

God gave you a natural ability to merge with other people. Don’t see this as a weakness but rather a gift. As you prefer the opinions of others, you humble yourself, just as Jesus does for us. Recognize that this is a gift and let go of the resentment that may begin to build. As you do, you will see the beauty in the gift God has given you, and you will have greater connection with others as they see your humility and sacrifice.

What others can do to have better relationships with Nines

Allow the Nines in your life to have their own voice. Encourage them to speak their honest opinions, and when they do, be careful to accept their opinions. Do not devalue their needs and desires as this will reinforce the thoughts they already have about the lack of value on their needs and preferences. Be sure they know you have heard and value their thoughts.

Since Nines have an innate ability to see multiple points of view, you should actively include them in your decision making. The Nines will not seek you out to share their insights so you will need to approach them and

ask for it. Taking the thoughts of a Nine into consideration will not only help you make a better decision, but it will also bring value to the Nines in your life, strengthening your bond and improving their self-worth.

Since we are all created in the image of God, we all resemble Him in certain ways. That's why we need all of us, together, to make up the complete body of Christ. Put us together and we resemble a fuller image of God to the world. Nines reflect the peace of God. As nines long for and try to keep their space peaceful, they reflect God in that. Isaiah 9:6- For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

YOU MIGHT BE A NINE...

You wait to speak until you have something to say.

You secretly meet people's needs but never get the credit.

You're happy to go along with what others want to do.

People think you're a good listener, but you find it hard to pay attention in long conversations.

You don't enjoy big social gatherings as much as a quiet night at home with the ones you love.

I tend to procrastinate.

Resources

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. 2016. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

The Honest Enneagram by Sara Jane Case. 2020. Kansas City, MO. Andrews McMeel Publishing.

The Enneagram for Beginners by Kim Eddy. 2020. Penguin Random House, LLC. New York

The Path Between Us by Suzanne Stabile. 2018. Downers Grove, IL. InterVarsity Press.

The Road Back to You by Ian Morgan Cron & Suzanne Stabile. 2016. IVP Books.

The Wisdom of The Enneagram by Don Richard Riso and Russ Hudson. 1999. New York, New York. Bantam Books
