

COMPLETE IN CHRIST OR INCOMPLETE IN SELF COL. 2:9-10

To some she is a rebel	To her group she is cool
To her anti-group (pretty, smart, cheerleaders...) she is an outcast	To the wise parent she is an opportunity

Insecurity, low self-esteem, being a teen – they all tend to blur together. We are looking at fundamental issues of how we deal with **feelings** of insecurity and specifically how they manifest in youth (and not so young!). (This is drawn from Dr. James Dobson)

Common default positions / what to look for & then do:

1. The fighter / bully

This is usually a boy.

If I can't be cool, I will beat up the cool one!

Anti-social - sometimes done in public, but often a bully behind the scenes.

This can become worse with age.

2. The withdrawer

Example: hugging walls

Caution becomes his / her main word.

Never take a chance.

Never:

- **Initiates a conversation**
- **Enters a contest**
- **Ask for anything**
- **Defends his / her rights**
- **Tries something new**

Example:

3. The clown

Proverbs 15:13 A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

Proverbs 15:15 All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.

Proverbs 17:22 A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Humor is good → very good.

The clown is not about humor / crying for help.

Clowns are usually disrupters.

They usually have difficulty with reading, mathematics, school, dating (girls) and even sports.

Humor is a distraction → anything to change the subject.

4. The denier / day dreamer

This person simply checks out - in multiple ways! (Remember: Da Nile is **not** a river in Egypt!)

- Fantasy
- A certain kind of reading: romance novels
- Alcohol, drugs, food....
- TV, movies, Hollywood

5. The conformer

This individual has no personality. This individual fears above all else rejection & ridicule.

6. The chameleon

This individual fits in everywhere and with everyone because he / she becomes everyone or anyone.

7. The compensator

This teen **only** exists because of parents primarily and teachers / Youth Pastors / Pastors, Mentors...secondarily.

“We are not what we think we are.

We are not what others think we are.

We are what we think others think we are.” Dr. James Dobson

What does this look like?

A. Complete in Christ

Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth **all the fulness** (πᾶν τὸ πλήρωμα) of the Godhead bodily. **Colossians 2:10** And ye are **complete** (ἐν αὐτῷ πεπληρωμένοι) **in him**, which is the head of all principality and power:

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **hath** **blessed** us with **all** spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

2 Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us **all** things that pertain unto life and godliness, **through** the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: **2 Peter 1:4** Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises....

B. Complete from Christ

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.** **Romans 12:4** For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: **Romans 12:5** So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

Ephesians 4:7 But unto every one of us is **given** grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. **Ephesians 4:11** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; **Ephesians 4:12** For the perfecting of the saints, **for** the work of the ministry, **for** the edifying of the body of Christ: **Ephesians 4:13** Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

1 Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man **to profit withal.** **1 Corinthians 12:11** But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally **as he will.** **1 Corinthians 12:13** For by one Spirit are we **all** baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been **all** made to drink into one Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, **as it hath pleased him.**

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. **1 Corinthians 12:28** And God hath set some in the church....

C. Complete through Christ's emissaries (Mom, Dad, Grandpa, Grandma, mentors...)

Ephesians 4:7 But unto every one of us is **given** grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. **Ephesians 4:11** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; **Ephesians 4:12** For the perfecting of the saints, **for** the work of the ministry, **for** the edifying of the body of Christ: **Ephesians 4:13** Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: **but bring them up** in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

This looks like:

- Finding the child's gifts
- Enhancing the child's gifts
- Eliminating the child's deficiencies
- Adding to the child's gifts some efficiencies / compensates

Musical training	Martial arts	A select skill
A select expertise	A select experience	Not 25 efficiencies
Something that child feels that makes them unique		