

## Ways of Being Smart

According to Harvard psychologist Howard Gardner, author of *Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences* (Basic Books, 1983), conventional intelligence testing and traditional grading in schools are not fair to all children. Noting that most North American schools focus on only two kinds of intelligence—linguistic and mathematical—Gardner suggests that schools fail to recognize the other kinds.

These are Gardner's seven types:

1. **Linguistic intelligence.** A sensitivity to the meaning and order of words.
2. **Logical-mathematical intelligence.** Ability in math and other complex logical systems.
3. **Musical intelligence.** The ability to understand and create music.
4. **Spatial intelligence.** The ability to “think in pictures,” to perceive the visual world accurately and recreate it in the mind or in visual form.
5. **Bodily-kinesthetic intelligence.** The ability to use one's body in a skilled way, for expression or to achieve a goal.
6. **Interpersonal intelligence.** The ability to perceive and understand other people, their moods, their desires, and their motivations.
7. **Intrapersonal intelligence.** The ability to be introspective and understand one's own emotions.

-- As quoted in *Christian Home & School*, April, 1989.

---

*Comment:*

*Though we hesitate to adopt such firm, man-made categories, or to limit the options to such a list, we can definitely agree that God makes people with different abilities, talents, knacks, capacities, passions, and for believers, spiritual gifts. God designed each of us to be who we are. Though we may desire to be different (who among us has not wished to be better in an area which we have no or little natural ability?), and can appreciate others who excel beyond our abilities, we are to focus upon what we have been designed for. We are not to allow ourselves to be discouraged or disabled because we desire to be something God has not made us to be. We are to glorify God by using what abilities we have, not by excusing our inactivity by complaining about the abilities we do not possess. – Pastor Kevin*

## Ways of Being Smart

According to Harvard psychologist Howard Gardner, author of *Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences* (Basic Books, 1983), conventional intelligence testing and traditional grading in schools are not fair to all children. Noting that most North American schools focus on only two kinds of intelligence—linguistic and mathematical—Gardner suggests that schools fail to recognize the other kinds.

These are Gardner's seven types:

1. **Linguistic intelligence.** A sensitivity to the meaning and order of words.
2. **Logical-mathematical intelligence.** Ability in math and other complex logical systems.
3. **Musical intelligence.** The ability to understand and create music.
4. **Spatial intelligence.** The ability to “think in pictures,” to perceive the visual world accurately and recreate it in the mind or in visual form.
5. **Bodily-kinesthetic intelligence.** The ability to use one's body in a skilled way, for expression or to achieve a goal.
6. **Interpersonal intelligence.** The ability to perceive and understand other people, their moods, their desires, and their motivations.
7. **Intrapersonal intelligence.** The ability to be introspective and understand one's own emotions.

-- As quoted in *Christian Home & School*, April, 1989.

---

*Comment:*

*Though we hesitate to adopt such firm, man-made categories, or to limit the options to such a list, we can definitely agree that God makes people with different abilities, talents, knacks, capacities, passions, and for believers, spiritual gifts. God designed each of us to be who we are. Though we may desire to be different (who among us has not wished to be better in an area which we have no or little natural ability?), and can appreciate others who excel beyond our abilities, we are to focus upon what we have been designed for. We are not to allow ourselves to be discouraged or disabled because we desire to be something God has not made us to be. We are to glorify God by using what abilities we have, not by excusing our inactivity by complaining about the abilities we do not possess. – Pastor Kevin*