

CHARACTER TRAITS

In *Priest in Community* Holmes suggested that some traits are interpersonal expressions of an intra-personal integration, which reflect a person's ability to so understand his or her own inner life that he or she is free to function effectively as a priest in the community. The list doesn't directly refer to spirituality; but Holmes assumed that "everything in the left column demands a disciplined, deep spiritual life."

Traits Appropriate to a Helpful
Intra-personal Life -- Shows Differentiation

Traits Not Appropriate

Traits Appropriate to a Helpful Intra-personal Life -- Shows Differentiation		Traits Not Appropriate
Humility	-----	Self-righteousness
Humor	-----	Staid-piousness
Self-forgetfulness	-----	Egocentricity
Earthiness	-----	Prudery
Vulnerability	-----	Defensiveness
Self-esteem	-----	Low self-image
Flexibility	-----	Rigidity
Love of solitude	-----	Depression and loneliness
Insightfulness	-----	Inexplicable anger
Clear sexual orientation	-----	Asexuality
Courage	-----	Fearfulness
Absolute faith, amid a plurality of belief	-----	Heresy hunting
Tolerance of ambiguity	-----	Intolerance/dogmatism
Awareness of the historicity of belief	-----	Ideological fundamentalism
Ability to conceptualize	-----	Information gatherer
Spiritual detachment/distance	-----	Emotional entrapment
Wide understanding & catholic taste	-----	Narrow opinions and experience
Admission of ignorance	-----	Pretense of knowledge
Compassion	-----	Certitude
Command of feelings	-----	Victim of feelings
A sense of injustice	-----	Moral insensitivity
Nonconformist & interdependent	-----	Conformist and dependent
Inner-directed	-----	Outer-directed
Active passivity, a friend of death	-----	Active for its own sake, particularly in the face of death
Contra-sexually aware	-----	Sexually unaware
Errant, with style	-----	Banal and/or dilettantish
Appreciation for symbol & story	-----	Excessive intellectualization
Community oriented	-----	Status oriented
Willing and able to manage	-----	Manipulative
Responsible	-----	Secretive
Decisive	-----	Intimidated
Self-confident	-----	Self-deprecating
Forgiving	-----	Judging

Holmes' assumption was that no one possesses all the character traits in the left column; that this pointed to a potential and a process. He wanted to assess whether movement seemed to be a possibility for the person or was very unlikely. *The Priest in Community*, Urban T. Holmes, Seabury Press, New York, 1978j