

# Do You Need To Be In Control?<sup>1</sup>

The word 'imperative' usually comes with the thought of being in control, being commanding, and being direct. In fact, imperative people have a need for control which inevitably disrupts relationships.

*“Over time imperative people lose their influence because people get tired of them. Their relationships turn sour.*

*Most of us have some imperative characteristics. I believe that this ability to organize and lead becomes a weakness, rather than an asset, when our imperative nature disrupts our relationships with our family, our business associates, and our friends. That's when we need to back off and learn how to keep our greatest strength from becoming our greatest weakness.*

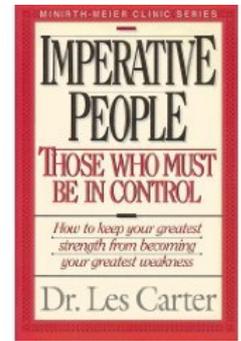
*Often imperative people are so convinced of the correctness of their ways that they can barely tolerate people and events that seem contrary. Imperative people crave control, though they are not necessarily aware enough to admit it.*

*You might be thinking, “Sounds like the type A personality to me.”*

*Yes and no. The Type A personality is driven by an incessant need to perform endless tasks for personal fulfillment. This is done at the expense of loving, accepting relationships with other people. Certainly Type A personalities are imperative people. Yet imperative thinking is not unique to this one personality type. People with all sorts of temperaments are susceptible. For instance, controlling behavior is quite common to Type B personalities, those quiet, easy-going individuals; they just express their imperative thinking differently. Often these people use "the silent treatment" to control their loved ones. And imperative behavior is not limited to people in leadership or authority positions, who often have Type A personalities.”<sup>2</sup>*

Here's some important points about being imperative:

- We all have imperative tendencies.
- Some symptoms of imperative personality:
  - Driven by duty.
  - Unconsciously dependent on other's opinions and emotions.
  - Act superior, but feel inferior.
  - Have inborn craving for control.
  - Have a need to be right.
- Often there's a desire to be punctual which is a meritorious attribute to have, but it should not create tensions between you and others. This is because imperative drives can cause you to be petty.
- Being in control and always wanting your own way produces an impatient, critical, unloving, unapproachable person.
- Having firm principles is good, but in the outworking of these we must be loving (the #1 law).
- Many stick with control because religion instils a dislike of freedom – it produces irresponsibility where control produces responsibility. This is assented too, even though control – especially dictatorial control – produces sourness in people and destroys relationships and families (not very loving).
- Imperative manner can be a cover-up for deep insecurities.
- Controlling people are not very trusting or accepting.
- Controlled people become angry and build walls around them for protection.
- Non-controlling people can still maintain strong opinions without being wishy-washy.



1 – Summary of Chapter 1

2 – Les Carter's book p.15

- Non-controlling people convey trust, acceptance, and equity.
- A person's nature and background help develop an imperative character.
- Imperative people need to relax and learn to allow themselves to make mistakes.

**There's a check-list to help assess yourself next lesson**

Laurence  
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