

A HOUSE THAT GRACE BUILT

Chapter 11: Cleansing the Rooms of the Past

CLEANING OUR OWN HEART

- Human principles, wisdom and “to do” lists won’t work to deal with our relationships any more than a system of religion can make us right with God.
- To operate by grace, we don’t need the other person to change or even be present. Instead, we need grace to be activated within our own hearts, thereby changing and healing us.
- For those people who are permanently removed from our lives, this process can allow us to properly grieve and release (Chapter 2).

WALKING THE HALLWAYS

- As we enter these rooms we have the opportunity to take every single thought, hope and dream that was lost inside that relational room and hand it over to our God.
- We place that relationship into God's hands, thereby giving Him permission to fill the needs that were neglected or broken.
- In God's hands we must remember that God uses all things together for our good (Romans 8:28). We will also find that He is far more capable to love than any human being.

SEEING OUR CHILDHOOD

- Our upbringing can't be ignored, but must not be dwelt on either
- At one point we need to enter into each room of our upbringing experience and authoritatively deal with it and close it – assuring the room has been cleansed so the door can be shut

THE ROOM OF OUR PARENT

- Entering the room is to help us gain perspective and to connect us to the pain that we haven't dealt with
- If we effectively dealt with these rooms, we do not need to return unless God has showed us
- Properly cleaning this room allows for true grief to take place, and allows us to say goodbye

THE ROOM OF SIBLINGS

- Sibling rivalry in childhood can have dysfunctional roots that enter into adulthood
- Understanding our sibling relationships helps us to have a better perspective and understanding of their issues.

CHILDHOOD/PEERS

- Trauma that takes place in the peer setting can be significant and can leave roots that will last through adulthood
- Entering into these rooms has a redemptive value to it – so we can better understand the remnants that can still be contained within

ADOLESCENT/PEERS

- We must take note of patterns and influencing relationship in our early peer/adolescent experience
- As children and teenagers, we long for a sense of belonging and acceptance, therefore, whenever we are exposed to rejection it can have a very profound effect.
- While thought of as merely a “phase” – this era of our lives can leave a permanent impression onto our relationship skills

RELEASING OURSELVES

- We must allow our inner child to grieve and grow up.
- The hurt, trauma and neglect needs validation and the entrance of authentic Jesus able to touch the very places where hurt occurred
- Protection gets dismantled when the heart is loved and vulnerability established
- Little child must feel what had been stifled

CLEANING EACH ROOM

- In understanding how we can fully cleanse and release each room, we must understand that our childhood/early adulthood relationships will fall into two categories:
 - Relationship where there is permanent separation (through death of other)
 - Relationships that will continue in our life today

ASSESS THE ROOM

1. What do you remember seeing or hearing inside the room of each relationship from the perspective of that age?
2. What do you remember feeling the most inside that room?
3. What weapons have you brought with you into that room to deal with anything that hadn't worked in the past? (control, denial, fear)
4. Up until now, has the room been cleansed? (If the room is cleaned from previous recovery and spiritual experiences, it is unnecessary to continue. But if there even a small possibility that there's something left inside, it's best to continue.

PREPARING OUR HEART

- Receiving the resources to cleanse our relational rooms is no different than the remedy we receive to deal with our own sin issues. Some of the ingredients required in this process include:
 - A willingness to submit ourselves to God and stand under the authority of the cross
 - A willingness to forgive the person in the room utilizing the same power of the blood that forgave us (for a review on forgiveness, read Chapter 8 and 9 from "TCCRW: Surviving to Significance")
 - The willingness to release that relationship to God

RENOUCE

1. Speak against and renounce the sin and the harmful messages that were sent through the relationship.
2. Announce the truth of God that replaces that lie
3. Spiritually close the door for the relationships of the past, and ask God to direct how far to open or close the door in relationship of today.
4. Remove any spiritual influences/trespasses/allowance/legal rights in the demonic
5. Pray for that door to not be opened in a harmful or negative way ever again, severing any unhealthy soul ties, but preserving its space for God's plan and purposes.