

A wireframe illustration of a large, multi-story house with a central entrance, multiple windows, and a balcony. The house is rendered in a light blue color against a dark blue background. The illustration is positioned behind a white rectangular frame that contains the title and chapter information.

A HOUSE THAT GRACE BUILT

Chapter 8: Assessing Intimacy Styles

OUTER COURTS

In our lives, the outer court refers to many interactions we have with people who enter and leave our lives in various manners. It represents the “gateway” of our soul – where we learn how to deal with every person that comes into our life and how to deal and place them relationally in our life.

TYPES OF FRIENDSHIP

Inner court friendships

Outer-court friendships

Outreach friendships

Gender friendships

OUTER COURT ACTIVITIES

When relationships are missing, invalid or house deficiencies, we are prone to looking to activity to find our validity and worth. This includes:

Work

Hobbies

Entertainment

Volunteer

Internet (facebook)

TV

THINGS

When human relationships don't house our valid needs, we can replace "people" with the acquisition of "things."

We can find security in what we possess or have, rather than who we are

UNHEALTHY INTIMACY STYLES

- **We built thick walls of protection around our heart to prevent the access of anyone entering into the sacred areas.**
- **We focus on functions and outward deeds - we believe that we can find intimacy through compliance and the performance of any number of tasks in our relationships.**
- **We misconstrue sacred intimacy and allow people into our heart carelessly and thoughtlessly.**
- **We bring people into the wrong relational rooms, mistaking and distorting the purpose.**
- **We may attach ourselves to activities, things or other non-human forms of interaction to avoid relationships,**

UNHEALTHY INTIMACY STYLES

- We may hang onto our parents into adulthood, mistaking unhealthy dependency as a form of intimacy, thereby never being released to form healthy intimacy in our adult relationships.
- We may enable our adult children to remain dependent on us, also misunderstanding “closeness” and “need” in relationships as intimacy.
- We may quickly allow people inside only to remove them from our lives for even the smallest violation, becoming easily and quickly offended.
- We may find it impossible to trust people, learning to survive and protect ourselves from any form of injury or harm, making intimacy impossible.
- We may always position ourselves as a victim to everyone, making intimacy impossible.

My Current Intimacy

Outer Courts

Who stays outside in the outer courts, even if they are meant by God to be inside?

Inner Court

Who is intimately close in my soul?

Holies of Holies

Who or what consumes my affection?

Gateway to my Soul

- Do I allow people in too much, or not allow at all?
- Have I forged an additional wall of protection?

List the important relationships in your life and the area they are located.
Write HONESTLY how they are right at this moment, even if you can acknowledge it is faulty.

