

1 Chapter 14

Untangling the Outer Courts

2 External Focus

- Codependence was composed of an entire system of external referencing
- We attempted to control the inward by facilitating the outward to look and appear a certain way
- God broke into our experience to rescue our hearts and do whatever was necessary to destroy the things that hurt us
- At times, He brought imposition and disruption. But in the process, we found His heart and His priorities.

3 Outer Court Purpose

In our relationships God has two main priorities:

- God works to perfect our hearts into His holiness, thus He uses people and circumstances as a method to reveal and refine the strongholds and weaknesses we carry within
- God seeks to bring Himself and the fruit of His Spirit to those around us, thus He is constantly placing us in strategic situations where we can manifest and offer that to the world around us.

4 Friendship

- God is a friend – He isn't just authoritarian towards us – yet He never negates that role either
- Friendship is choice-based and holds no obligation, therefore it's the most free relationship we'll have on earth

5 Imbalanced Friendships

- Overly giving – relationships where one person is always acting as a counselor, advisor, mentor is not a true friendship –but has an authority role
- If this has become a natural relationship skill, we often don't even know what a balanced friendship is like – we typically overly give or overly need in each situation

6 Misunderstanding Authority

- If we became accustomed to always being in an “authority” role in

all our relationships, we may have struggled when we ourselves needed to come under someone's established authority in our lives.

- Normally, our need to “take charge” had been driven by failed leadership in our life, therefore we often didn't trust anyone in an authority role. In fact, our need to be in control was typically rooted in this very dynamic.

7 **Misunderstanding Authority**

- We questioned and distrusted authority in such a manner where we thought we knew better or had the right to change their decisions, agenda and methods of bringing forth an outcome. We may have even tried to convince others that our point of view was more accurate than the established leadership.
- We placed ourselves in situations with authority where we could “switch roles” and put ourselves in the “giving” position. We did this by seeking to find areas of vulnerability or need where we could provide something they needed, offer advice to them, or ourselves take over the “authoritative” role.
- We tried to “befriend” authority in order to dismantle the authoritative aspect to the relationship

8 **Cleansing our Friendships**

- Categorize our friendship and identify their purpose
- Recognize the balance in the relationship and work on our part
- Apply grace when needed – allow God to dismantle the relationships that are not healthy, but not before He directs

9 **Body of Christ**

- We are called to be members of one body through interdependency. But like all other areas, distortions do occur including:
 - People pleasing – living for the approval of the people in church rather than God's approval. This opposes the fear of God.
 - People-focused churches – They honor and overly emphasize people more than God. We need to be cautious not to jump to quickly to judge, but to pray
 - Order of ministry – place outer court ministry in front of our inner court family

10 **Cleaning our Ministry Role**

- Put God first and ask Him to sort and sift our ministry roles
- Be willing to let God form an agenda for us altogether – without regard to the people.
- We don't need to disrespect authority, but sometimes we need to hear from God and we can't because we are drowned out by those around us.

11 **Other Outer Courts**

- General population and people we engage with – need to develop awareness of God's agenda in each situation
- Activity can be used to replace lack of healthy friendship and connection – need to review what we do and our motivation for each activity
- Things – need to view our material needs appropriately, both what we possess and what we are in need of receiving. God is far, far higher than the material aspects of earth. He is after our trust and affection first and foremost – and PROMISES He will supply our needs.

12 **Order in Our Courts**

- The spiritual ramification of the divine order of our courts being reestablished is profound.
- God is removing the bondage of externally referencing in our life and replacing it with an internal compass of His Holy Spirit.
- He is causing us to reverse the outward focus and primarily look and stand in His presence as our objective in life.
 - The outward is primarily used to pour out the resources we receive from our inner life. (In codependence, we lived using the outward to fill the inward).
 - The inward no longer needs to be hid, and is in fact bursting with the fragrance and beauty of the cleansing touch of Jesus Christ. (In codependence, we lived a life of hiding, thus could not break free from the bondage inside our own heart).

13 **Living Untangled**

- It's not easy, but it's freedom!