



CCN WEEKLY SOLUTIONS SERIES
THE WEEK OF APRIL 23, 2007



Places in the Heart

Featuring
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Best-selling co-author of Boundaries series,
author of How People Grow

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Mapping the universe inside your heart and head (see next page)

When we begin, there's unbroken relatedness between us and between us and God

- But we're broken: we can't not look for connection, *and* we can't make it work

*The creation
was subjected
to futility.
—Romans 8:20*

Your heart seeks connection, has to go somewhere: four options

Corner #1: No connection—**isolation**

No one may be available, or the connections fearful—the loner or the “smiley”

With a disconnected heart, symptoms:

- depression, fears/anxieties, meaninglessness, despair, lack of hope

We can't live in this corner very long: the Bible's name for it is HELL

Corner #2: Bad connection—**the judge**

We're drawn out of no connection to bad connection—we feel bad

- Judgmental church—spirituality as feeling bad
- Relationship with a critical person—never good enough
- Critical voices in our own heads include Satan's

Observe your bad feelings: “Why did I just go into Corner #2?”

The Bible calls this LAW: the standard that does not forgive

*²¹So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²²For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. ²⁴What a wretched man I am!
—Romans 7:21-24*

Corner #3: The pseudo-connection

Things that help one feel good—momentarily—that do damage

- Performance, money, status

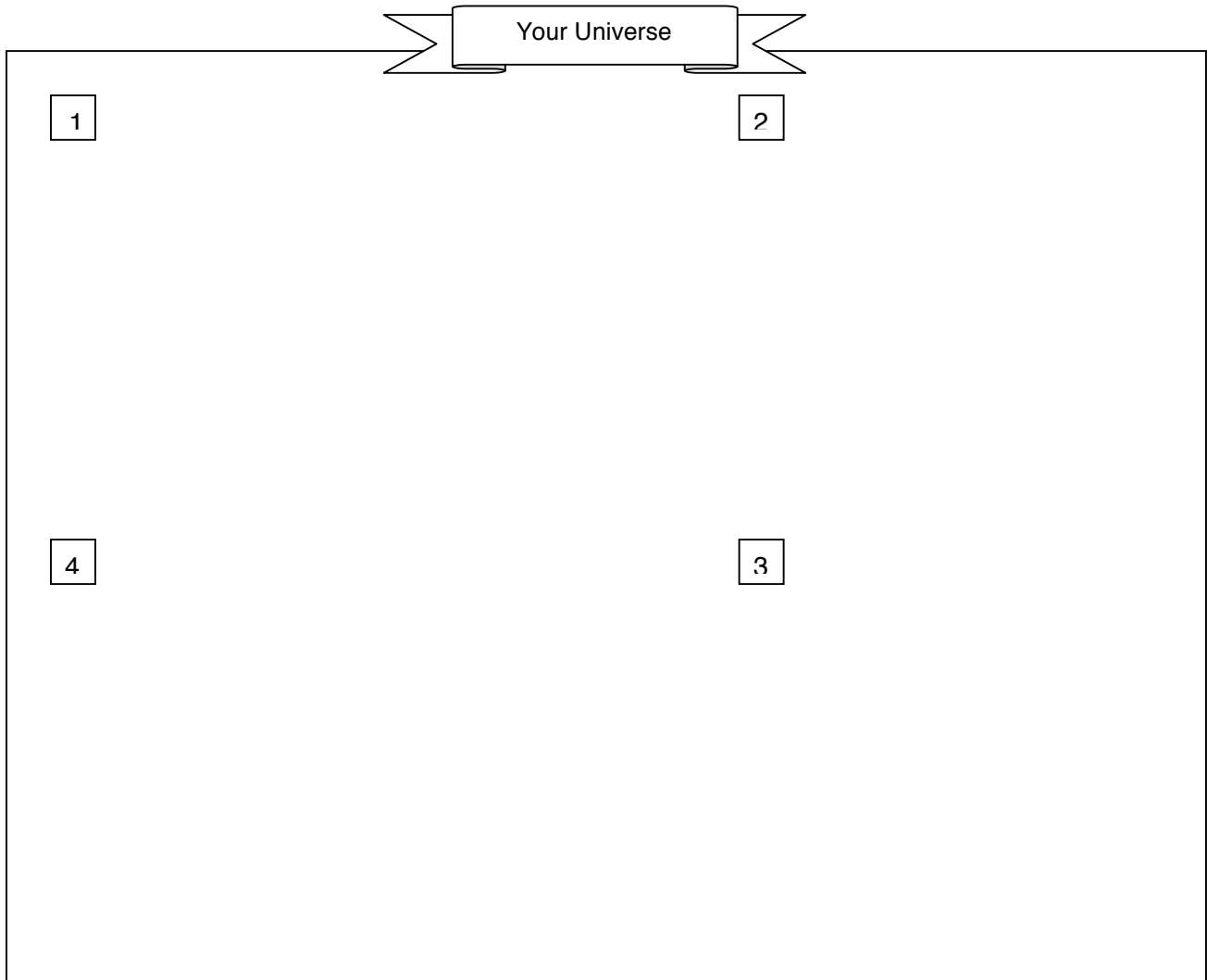
“Humanity is kind of a term for addiction”: a continual lust for _____ (Ephesians 4:19)

*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world...
—1 John 2:16.*

Corner #4: Real connection, or LOVE

Love is where we're known as we are, holding nothing back

- We're being fed from the outside, and life is flowing: this is home



Why the map? These four are the only places you can be

Learn to recognize your own version of corners 1, 2, and 3

- When you find yourself feeling bad, call home

The opposite of *bad* isn't *good enough* (Romans 7): it's *loved*

- Log the time you spend in those corners—and go home

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
—Romans 8:1

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Next Week on “Solutions”

What’s Your Style? The Avoider and the Blaster

Resources:

BOOKS:

Changes that Heal
By Dr. Henry Cloud
www.zondervan.com

Integrity
By Dr. Henry Cloud
www.cloudtownsend.com

How People Grow
By Dr. Henry Cloud
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