



CCN WEEKLY SOLUTIONS SERIES
THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2007



Secrets of the Good Life, #4: A Dream Come True

Featuring

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I. What does righteousness mean?

A religious definition of righteousness can get in the way of relationships

Righteousness = right living

It's not about moral perfection

Living according to the paths God has laid down for good relationships

Good behaviors and good outcomes

²and he began to teach them, saying:...

⁵"**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for**

_____."

—Matthew 5:2, 5

II. Three aspects of righteousness

Repentance

Repent = to turn around, to change

- Attitudes
- Behaviors
- Words

To increase love and growth in your life

Understanding/insight

Figuring out the dynamics

Harshness

Harshness works—temporarily

Judging the way one was judged

Allowing oneself to feel the hurt and to grieve

Chaos

Disconnection

The understanding and insight answer other questions in your life

There will be pain, but it's good work and has an end to it

Let a righteous man strike me—it is a kindness.

—Psalm 141:5

Discipline

We have bad paths or habits

When you can't say no to people, you're out of control in relationships

These paths or habits keep us in bondage (Colossians 2)

New paths/new ways are needed

But the insight and understanding have to be there

²⁰Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: ²¹“Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”?
—Colossians 2:20-21

III. Obstacles to living the right way

“I want the benefits, but I don't want God”

God doesn't do that: we have pain so we see that our life needs to follow certain ways

The benefits won't stay if you don't live the life

The demand for instant changevs. The process

Successful people are patient people

You can't make the process go faster

Enjoy the ride, get more into the journey

IV. Tips

- Balance insights and habits

A small group is a great place to find out the habits of righteousness

- Continually ask God what his rules are

Kids don't ask for the rules—they have to be talked into it

Grownups are supposed to ask for the rules

Next week on *Solutions*: “Feeling Good”

Resources:

BOOKS:

Hiding from Love

By Dr. John Townsend
www.zondervan.com

How People Grow

By Drs. Henry Cloud and John
Townsend
www.zondervan.com

Loving People (to appear)

By Dr. John Townsend

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