



CCN WEEKLY SOLUTIONS SERIES
THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17, 2007



Freedom of Religion

Featuring

Dr. John Townsend

Psychologist

Best-selling co-author of Boundaries series,

author of Hiding from Love

Visit CCN on the web at www.ccn.tv

I. Introduction

God doesn't intend for us to be in a religious "jail"

II. What is a good religion?

- Increases love: capacity to love others and God
- Increases freedom: to take risks and make decisions for yourself
- Decreases size: realization that God's bigger than us

*So Christ has truly set us free.
Now make sure that you stay
free, and don't get tied up
again in slavery to the law.
—Galatians 5:1*

III. Aspects of healthy vs. unhealthy religion

Grace: conditional vs. unconditional

We're supposed to be loved no matter what

Make sure the religious system you're in says that grace is free

Truth: condemnation vs. love and correction

It takes more work to teach grace:

Normalize failure and need

Bring to relationship

Move from "ought to" go vs. "want to"

If there's life there, we move from obligation to desire

Things to beware of:

Vertical and non-horizontal approach to spirituality

A religion shouldn't negate connection to one another

You need the Sunday facing forward but also the Tuesday facing each other

*As each one has received a
special gift, employ it in
serving one another as good
stewards of the manifold
grace of God.
—1 Peter 4:10*

Rules when the Bible has no rules

Leadership: is it engaged in the growth process, or disengaged?

A black-and-white view vs. mystery

Look for those who admit that they don't always know

God's there in the mystery

IV. Why we get into problems

- Warmth relationally without health

- Structure

They think for you: this can be sick but comforting

There's a part of you that's afraid of your freedom

- Against the culture, and sometimes against other churches

V. Steps

- Look for connection

If you can't connect in your church, something needs to be looked at

- Look at the fruits: love and growth or fear and obligation

- Get out of your comfort zone

Good healthy churches encourage questions

Your religion should be the core of your life and give you life

Next week, *Solutions* will break for Christmas.
We will return the week of January 7 with
“Loving People, Part 1: The Nature of Love”

Resources

BOOKS:

Hiding from Love

By Dr. John Townsend
www.cloudtownsend.com

Who's Pushing Your Buttons?

By Dr. John Townsend
www.cloudtownsend.com

Loving People (to appear)

By Dr. John Townsend

CLOUD-TOWNSEND SOLUTIONS FOR LIFE 

FREE online video solutions 24/7!

As part of our online video community you can ask Dr. Cloud & Dr. Townsend your questions and get a video response!

Go to **CloudTownsend.com** and discover:

- relevant video solutions
- videos of the week
- engaging discussion groups
- and much more!



Sponsored In Part By:



NewLife Ministries

New Life Ministries is a fully-equipped resource for the treatment of mental and spiritual health issues.

www.newlife.com

Contact Information

Dr. John Townsend

Cloud-Townsend Resources
3176 Pullman Street, Suite 105
Costa Mesa, California 92626
Phone: 800-676-4673
Web: www.cloudtownsend.com

Church Communication Network

PO Box 1718
Mt. View, CA 94042
Phone: 800-321-6781
Fax: 650-745-0660
Email: ccninfo@ccnonline.net
Web: www.ccn.tv

Visit CCN on the web at www.ccn.tv