

CLOUD-TOWNSEND RESOURCES



SOLUTIONS
real people, real life

Character Discernment For Dummies, Part 2

Featuring

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Visit CTR at www.cloudtownsend.com

I. Relationship heals, and relationship hurts

We need a better people picker

*Guard your heart with all diligence,
for from it flow the issues of life.*
—Proverbs 4:23

Issues in our lives tend to have people on the other end of them

These people don't just land in our lives without us having a part in it

The responsibility for who we choose falls on us

Your people picker needs to have filters

II. Safe people

You must evaluate people

Don't have only safe people in your life

Jesus built his life in concentric circles

The closer you got, the more he revealed

Where your heart is involved, be discerning

Family → familiar

From infancy, patterns develop

Two sides to the pattern

Subject/me Object/other

*...I will walk with integrity of heart
within my house; I will not set
before my eyes anything that is
base. I hate the work of those who
fall away; it shall not cling to me.
Perverseness of heart shall be far
from me; I will know nothing of
evil. One who secretly slanders a
neighbor I will destroy. A haughty
look and an arrogant heart I will
not tolerate. I will look with favor
on the faithful in the land, so that
they may live with me; whoever
walks in the way that is blameless
shall minister to me. No one who
practices deceit shall remain in my
house; no one who utters lies shall
continue in my presence. Morning
by morning I will destroy all the
wicked in the land, cutting off all
evildoers from the city of the Lord.*
—Psalm 101

In bad situations, people get their attachments before their people picker

III. What to beware of

1. Apologizers vs. repenters

Does the person say, “I’m sorry,” or does the person change?

You’ll see the repenter pursuing health—and you’re not driving it

2. Scene vs. movie

There’s a time test

3. Against growth vs. for growth

Those who aren’t coming to the light will resist when you do

4. Religious vs. spiritual

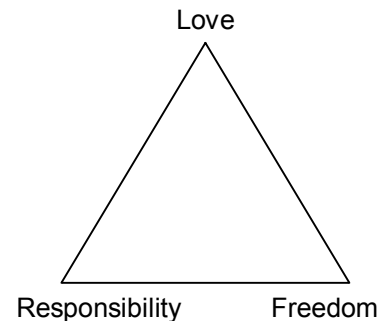
True spirituality: relational and connected

5. No ownership vs. ownership

Without freedom you have no love

But not using freedom responsibly destroys love

6. Defensive, contempt, disconnect, criticism



IV. What to look for

1. Connect

2. Freedom

Do they allow separateness?

Is your “no” respected?

3. Real: both good and bad

4. Adult, equal

Not looking for parents, not looking to parent

Next week on *Solutions*: “Dream Lover”

Resources

BOOKS:

Loving People

By Dr. John Townsend
www.cloudtownsend.com

Who’s Pushing Your Buttons?

By Dr. John Townsend
www.cloudtownsend.com

Hiding from Love

By Dr. John Townsend
www.cloudtownsend.com



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