



CCN WEEKLY SOLUTIONS SERIES  
THE WEEK OF MARCH 31, 2008



## **How People Grow, 2: God, Jesus, & the Holy Spirit**

**Featuring**

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

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## I. Introduction

What difference does it make which part of the Trinity you're related to?

Everyone has an individual path with God

You have a way to relate to God that God tailored to you

*My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property; but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father.*  
—Galatians 4:1-2

## II. God

God is the God of grace—so what?

But we relate to God as a God of law

Attractions of the Law: predictability, structure

Problem: The Law never worked—Romans 6

Grace: Unmerited favor

- Unmerited: unearned, undeserved
- Favor: God is on our side

What in us doesn't let that in?

We need to experience the death of willpower

- We can't save ourselves by trying harder
- We must learn to say, "I can't"
- Learn to come to the end of yourself
- Learn how to ask for favors

<sup>20</sup>...Why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, <sup>21</sup>"Don't handle! Don't taste! Don't touch!"? <sup>22</sup>Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. <sup>23</sup>These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person's evil desires.  
—Colossians 2:20-23

### III. Jesus

Jesus teaches us how to identify and deal with suffering

Jesus' life normalizes suffering

Suffering we should encounter vs. suffering we should refuse

Jesus taught us how to suffer without retaliation

Jesus taught us self-control: to be no one's victim

Jesus taught us about spiritual warfare

Jesus' life teaches how to deal with temptation

*From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things...  
—Matthew 16:21*

### IV. The Holy Spirit

The Spirit speaks to us, but we have to listen

The mystery: It's even better that the Spirit come

What the Spirit does:

- Guides and comforts
- Provides security
- Provides a partnership

You can't put the Spirit into a formula

Instead, seek and follow

Begin to work on being open with safe people

*"But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you."  
—John 16:7*

**Next week on *Solutions*:**  
**“How People Grow, 3: People, Acceptance, Forgiveness, the Bible”**

## Resources

***How People Grow: What the Bible Reveals about Personal Growth***

by Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend  
[www.cloudtownsend.com](http://www.cloudtownsend.com)

***Loving People***

by Dr. John Townsend  
[www.cloudtownsend.com](http://www.cloudtownsend.com)

***Boundaries***

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