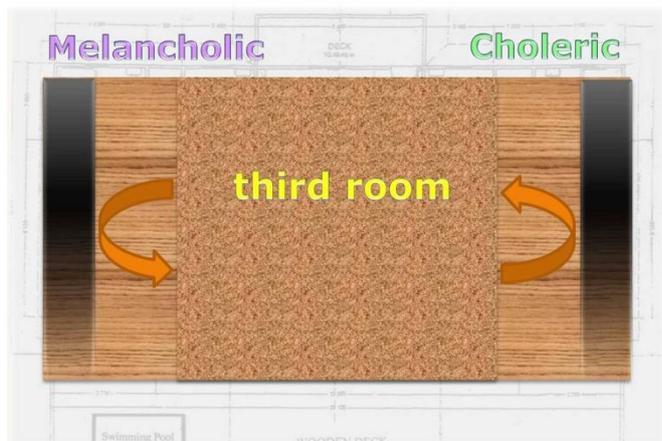


The Third Room

We are meant to ‘occupy the house’ that God has given us. Each of us has at least two temperaments and we were designed in such a way that we function best when we live fully in both parts of who we are. Sadly, for many of us, that doesn’t happen because we were not given the confidence in our early years to fully explore who we are. In the areas where we do not give ourselves fully away the negatives collect and form a ‘no-go’ area.



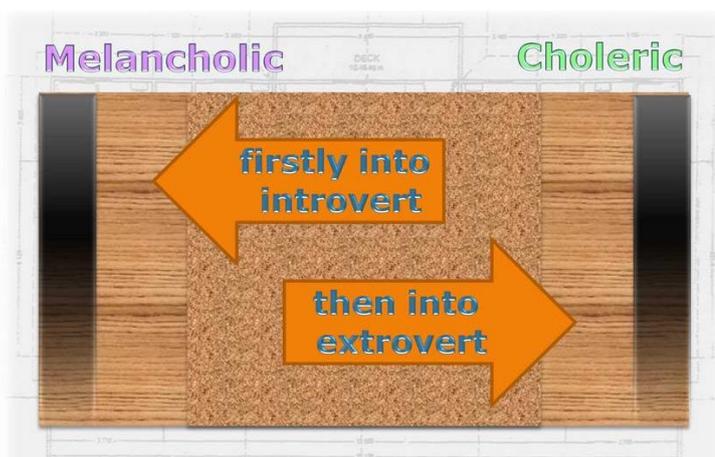
Rather than ‘pushing into the darkness,’ we occupy a more central position and live in the ‘third room’ – a combination of part of each of the temperaments – a ‘safe’ middle place.

The more an area is neglected the more the ‘dark area’ slowly invades who we are – especially our introvert temperament. If we have particular specific negative experiences the darkness moves forward in larger increments. A Melancholic can end up feeling that his Melancholic is his ‘dark

side,’ while the response of the Phlegmatic to such emotions is to distance himself from them and move almost entirely into the extrovert.

What are we to do? Determine that we are going to take possession of all that we are. But there were very good reasons why we didn’t explore the whole of who we are in the first place! Who knows what we will find?

We are safe to discover anything we need to know about ourselves. God has already accepted us in Christ. There is nothing that he does not know about us. And because God has already accepted us, we can do the same to each other – ‘accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you’ (Romans 15:7). It doesn’t matter what we find. There is nothing that has not been dealt with already at the Cross. And the reality is, that much of what we feared doesn’t even exist! The fear of what we will find is what does the damage.



We don’t need to do this alone. Allow a friend, who often can see what we cannot, to take us by the hand and walk with us into those areas that we have avoided. Together, with the Lord, we can develop the confidence to live fully in all that God has made us to be.