

# God's Love in Marriage

*We love because he first loved us.*

~ 1 John 4.19 ~



## 6-WEEK ELECTIVES

Sundays, October 15 – November 19, 11:00 AM

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### God's Love in Marriage

**Overview:** Whether single, dating, engaged or married, we all need an awareness of God's love in order for our relationships to overcome the devastating effects of sin. Only when our hearts are fully aware of God's love are we equipped to love and extend the grace that we all need and long for. In Christ, we're fully known and yet fully loved. This is how God relates to us, and how we can and should relate to our loved ones, especially in marriage. All are welcome to join as we explore the love of God that brings deep and lasting change.

**Teacher:** Greg Fox

**Week 1:** God's Purpose for Marriage

**Week 2:** Cancer and the Cure

**Week 3:** God's Love in Marriage

**Week 4:** Thorns in Marriage

**Week 5:** Friendship and Intimacy

**Week 6:** Deep Lasting Change

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# God's Love in Marriage

Week 1

God's Purpose  
for Marriage

Week 2

Cancer and  
the Cure

Week 3

God's Love  
in Marriage

Week 4

The Thorns  
in Marriage

Week 5

Intimate  
Friendship

Week 6

Deep Lasting  
Change

*Week 2*

# Cancer and the Cure

*Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.*

~ Romans 5.20 ~

## Cancer and the Cure

The greatest danger to my  
marriage is: \_\_\_\_\_

## Cancer and the Cure

The greatest danger to my  
marriage is: Me

Cancer and the Cure

Romans 7.15

I do not understand my own actions.

For I do not do what I want,  
but I do the very thing I hate.

# Romans 7.18

For I know that nothing good dwells in me,  
that is, in my flesh.

For I have the desire to do what is right,  
but not the ability to carry it out.



Cancer and the Cure

Romans 7.19

I do not do the good I want,  
but the evil I do not want  
is what I keep on doing.

## Cancer and the Cure

Grew up in a church that...  
Everything was fine until...

## Cancer and the Cure

# Cancer

- Development of abnormal cells
- Divide uncontrollably
- Ability to infiltrate and destroy normal body tissue
- Ability to spread throughout your body
- 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death in the United States
- Internal disease that often goes undetected
- Screenings become vital for early treatment

## Cancer and the Cure

# Screening

- Mammogram (breast cancer)
- Colonoscopy (colon cancer)
- Pap Smear (cervical cancer)
- Dermatology Exam (skin cancer)
- CT Scan, MRI (lung cancer)
- Blood Tests (kidney, liver, prostate cancer)
- Biopsy of Lymph Nodes (leukemia – blood cancer)

# Cancer Screening

- Reveals what is already there.
- We should want to know.
  - Treatment.

# Spiritual Screening

- Reveals what is already there.
- We should want to know.
  - Treatment.

## Cancer and the Cure

# Some Questions to Start:

### Why did you get married?

- He/she completes me...I found my “Soulmate”.
  - I always dreamed of the perfect wedding.
    - I always wanted lots of children.
  - Sex goes from very wrong to very right.
- I feel really amazing when I’m around him/her.
- I finally found someone who loves me as much as I do.

## Cancer and the Cure

# Some Questions to Start:

### What happened?

- He/she doesn't even try to complete me anymore.
  - My perfect wedding was anything but.
  - He/she is not able to give me children.
- Sex goes from very wrong to something worse.
- I feel really frustrated when I'm around him/her.
- I found someone who no longer loves me as much as I do.



Cancer and the Cure

# The Cancer of Marriage

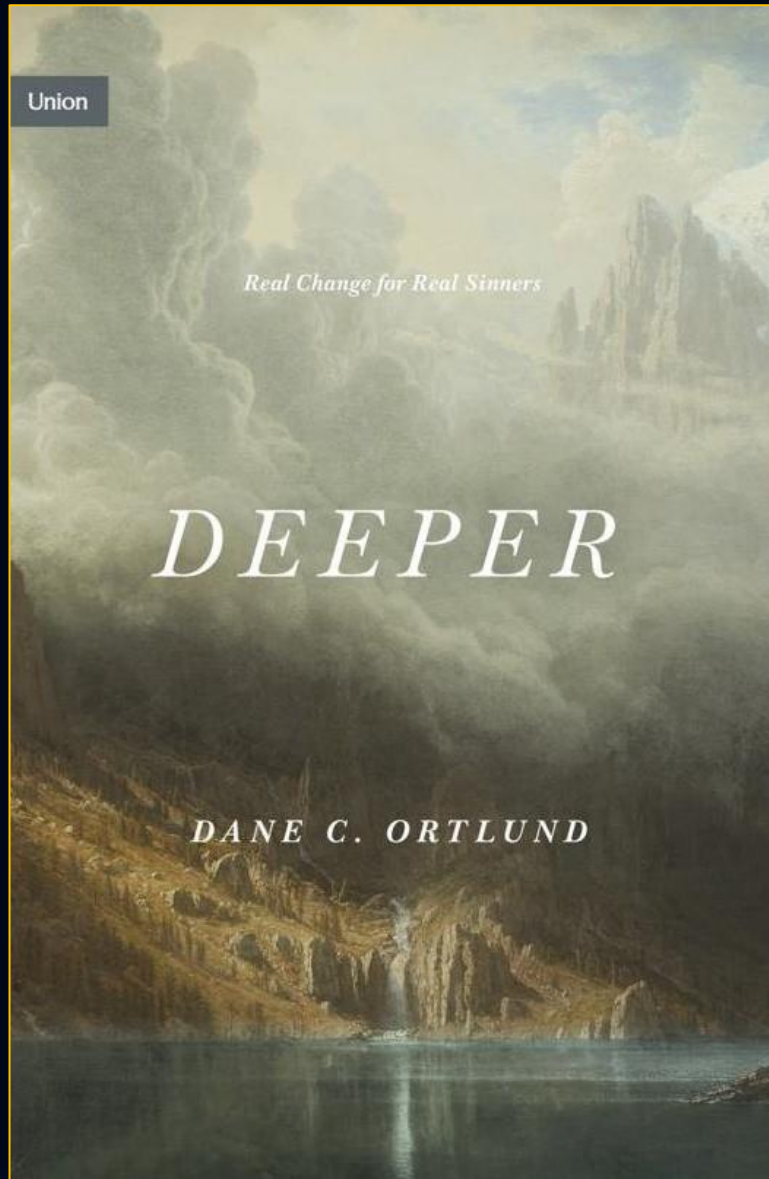
Self-centeredness

## Cancer and the Cure

# How is Self-centeredness like cancer?

- Internal
- Difficult to Detect
- Quickly Multiplies
- Needs Screening
  - Deadly

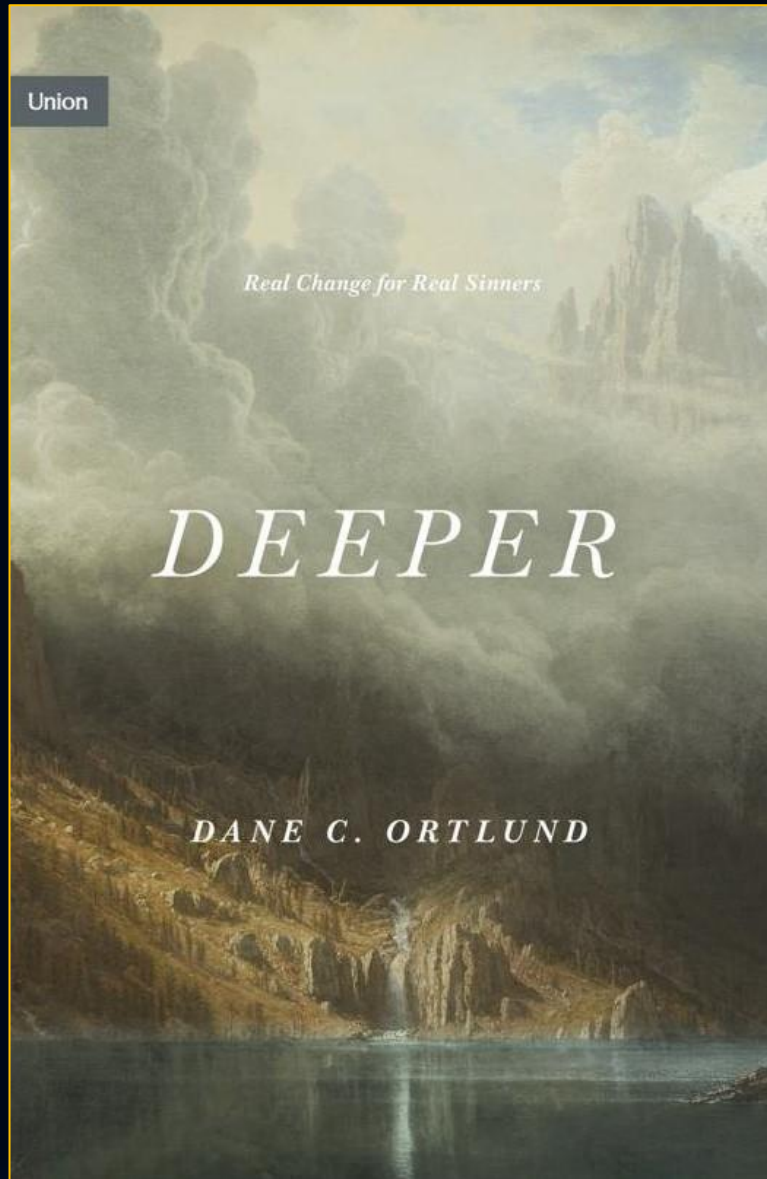
## Cancer and the Cure



# Deeper Real Change for Real Sinners

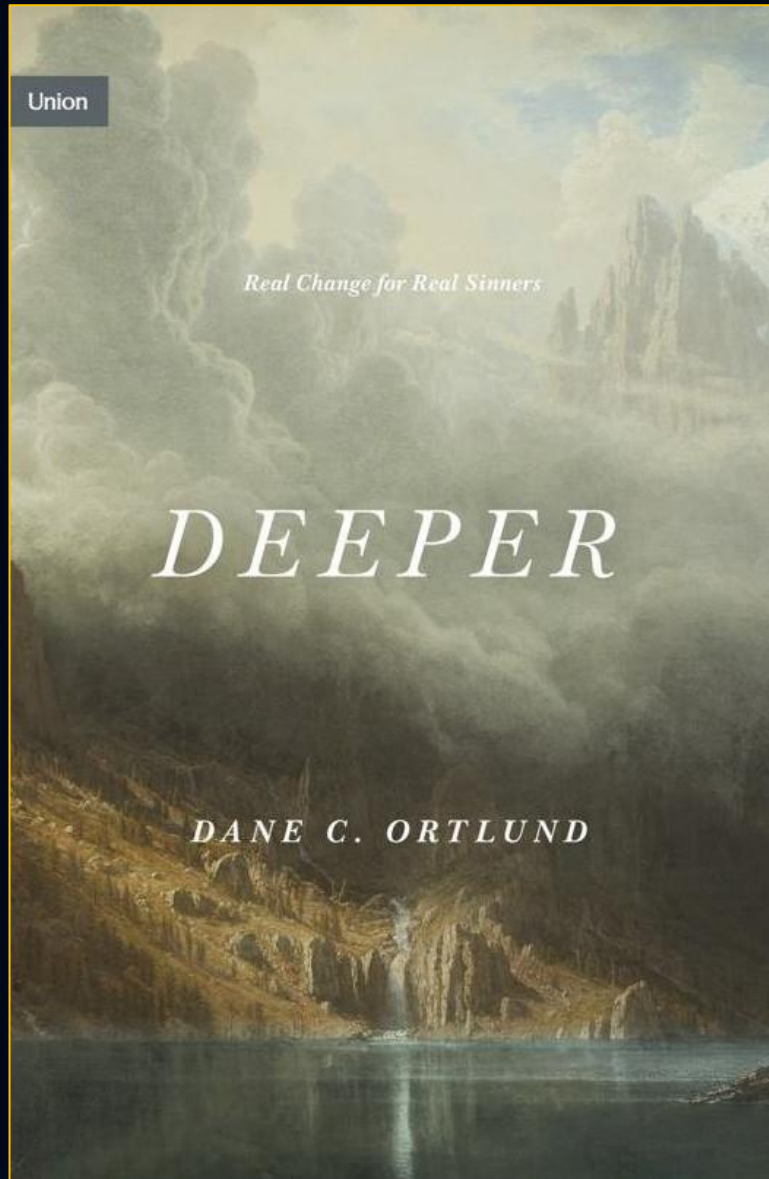
*Dane Ortlund*

## Cancer and the Cure



If you view your sinfulness as a bothersome headache more than a lethal cancer, you will see tepid growth, if any.

## Cancer and the Cure



It's like we have a disease,  
one symptom of which  
is that we feel healthy.  
This is why the Bible often  
speaks of our sinfulness as  
blindness.

# Self-centeredness

How to *recognize* it in spite of our *blindness*:

1. We become easily offended.
2. We ask inverted questions.

## Cancer and the Cure

Is God in  
my story?

God is in this story

God is in the details

Even in the broken parts

He holds my heart, He never fails

When I'm at my weakest

I will trust in Jesus

Always in the highs and lows

The One who goes before me

God is in this story

God is in my story

Cancer and the Cure

Are you in  
God's story?



Cancer and the Cure

Joshua 5.13

When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand.

And Joshua went to him and said to him,  
“Are you for us, or for our adversaries?”

Cancer and the Cure

Joshua 5.14

And he said, “No;

but I am the commander of the army of the Lord.

Now I have come.”

And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and  
worshipped...

Cancer and the Cure

God, are You for me  
or against me?

(v.14) **No . . .**

Cancer and the Cure

Are you for or  
against Me?

# Self-centeredness

How to *recognize* it in spite of our *blindness*:

1. We become easily offended.
2. We ask inverted questions.
3. We turn God into a delivery system.
4. Our spouses are reduced to either vehicles or obstacles.
5. Your spouse is the main problem in your marriage.
6. Irritable, sensitive, unhappy, withdrawn, exhausted.

## Cancer and the Cure

Selfishness *Always* → Wounds

Cancer and the Cure

The ultimate outcome  
of self-centeredness  
in marriage?

# Divorce

No one ever wakes up one morning  
and decides to file for divorce.

Just like cancer, there are stages.



## Cancer and the Cure

# James 1.14-15

But each person is tempted when he is lured  
and enticed by his own desire.

Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin,  
and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

## Cancer and the Cure

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Cancer and the Cure

Stage

Divorce?

James 1.14-15

0

Wounded  
*That hurt deeply*

Tempted

1

Question  
*Did God really say?*

Desire

2

Meditate  
*Negative reasons*

Conception

3

Fantasize  
*Positive reasons*

Birth to Sin

4

Strongly Consider  
*Begin to make plans*

Fully Grown

5

Torn Apart

Death

# Cancer Treatment?

1. Dealing with our self-centeredness
2. Dealing with being wounded (*You hurt me*)
3. Dealing with wounding (*I hurt you*)

Cancer and the Cure

Our Self-centeredness  
keeps us from realizing that

we wound

just as much as we are wounded.

## Cancer and the Cure

Hurt people hurt people.



# Self-centeredness in Marriage

Tim Keller:



## Cancer and the Cure

She grew up a wounded  
person.

## Cancer and the Cure

They are usually enormously  
self-centered.

## Cancer and the Cure

You don't challenge them  
at all.

## Cancer and the Cure

Self-centeredness has been  
aggravated by their  
mistreatment.

## Cancer and the Cure

They have to do something  
about it.

## Cancer and the Cure

1. You begin to see how selfish they really are.

## Cancer and the Cure

2. They begin to tell you  
about how selfish  
they think you are.



## Cancer and the Cure

3. Your own selfishness  
is not nearly as bad  
as the other person.

## Cancer and the Cure

Emotional distance  
begins to develop.

## Cancer and the Cure

Determine your selfishness  
is more serious than the  
other person's selfishness.

## Cancer and the Cure

Two people that see  
my self-centeredness  
is the main problem  
in this marriage.

## Cancer and the Cure

Is there any hope?

Is there any help?

Cancer and the Cure

# The Cure

1. True Love

## Cancer and the Cure

“For every look at yourself,  
take ten looks at Christ.”

## Cancer and the Cure

“Learn much of the Lord Jesus.

For every look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ.

He is altogether lovely.

Such infinite majesty,  
and yet such meekness and grace,  
and all for sinners, even the chief!



## Cancer and the Cure

Live much in the smiles of God.

Bask in his beams.

Feel his all-seeing eye settled on you in love,  
and repose in his almighty arms.”

~ *Robert Murray M'Cheyne*

Cancer and the Cure

Jesus is your True Love

Tim Keller:



(4 min)

## Cancer and the Cure

How did Paul live  
with himself?

## Cancer and the Cure

Nothing can separate us from  
the Love of God!

Cancer and the Cure

# The Black Bull of Norrøway

## Cancer and the Cure

The tunic represented  
his heart.

## Cancer and the Cure

He wounded himself by what  
he had done wrong.

## Cancer and the Cure

I'm going to need  
True Love  
to deal with the self hate.



Cancer and the Cure

Jesus is your True Love

## Cancer and the Cure

I'm the only one that can  
heal you.

## Cancer and the Cure

Everybody in this room  
deals with  
overt and covert guilt.

Cancer and the Cure

# The Cure

1. True Love

2. Wounds

Cancer and the Cure

Isaiah 53.4-5

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried  
our sorrows;

yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God,  
and afflicted.

Cancer and the Cure

Isaiah 53.4-5

But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us  
peace, and  
with his wounds we are healed.

## Cancer and the Cure

with His Wounds we are healed

with His wounding we are healed

Cancer and the Cure

1 Peter 4.19

Let those who suffer  
according to God's will  
entrust their [wounded] souls to a  
faithful Creator while doing good



## Cancer and the Cure

We must come to understand that every wound that we receive comes from our Good and Gracious King who knows us and loves us enough to wound us carefully.

Cancer and the Cure

# Shasta's wounds

There's only ever one Lion.

## Cancer and the Cure

How comforting to know  
all my wounds  
*(and all my wounding)*  
come from one Lion.

## Cancer and the Cure

He is the King of Wounds.

He is the King of the wounded.

*(Our tears are never wasted)*

## Cancer and the Cure

# Our wounds have purpose

1. Focus – *biking with Tim Keller*
2. Trust – *a reminder of God's Providence*
3. Empathy – *are you able to comprehend another's pain?*
4. Solidarity – *alignment with the suffering Savior*
5. Cure for our Cancer – *our wounds redirects our eyes to His healing Wounds*

# Our wounding has purpose

1. Deeper Humility
2. Heightened Sensitivity
3. Point of View
4. Forgiveness
5. Restoration

Cancer and the Cure

# The Cure

1. True Love

2. Wounds

3. Scars

## Cancer and the Cure

Scar:

a healed visible reminder  
of a significant wound.



## Cancer and the Cure

Our emotional and spiritual  
wounds are often unseen...  
even by us.

## Cancer and the Cure

Have your wounds become scars?

Have you allowed grace to heal  
your wounds...

even when it hurts to do so?

Cancer and the Cure

How?

Can you say you're thankful  
for wounds and scars?

Cancer and the Cure

Scars — *I Am They*

Waking up to a new sunrise  
Looking back from the other side

I can see now with open eyes

Darkest water and deepest pain

I wouldn't trade it for anything

'Cause my brokenness brought me to you

And these wounds are a story you'll use

Cancer and the Cure

Scars — *I Am They*

So I'm thankful for the scars

'Cause without them I wouldn't know your heart

And I know they'll always tell of who you are

So forever I am thankful for the scars

Cancer and the Cure

Scars — *I Am They*

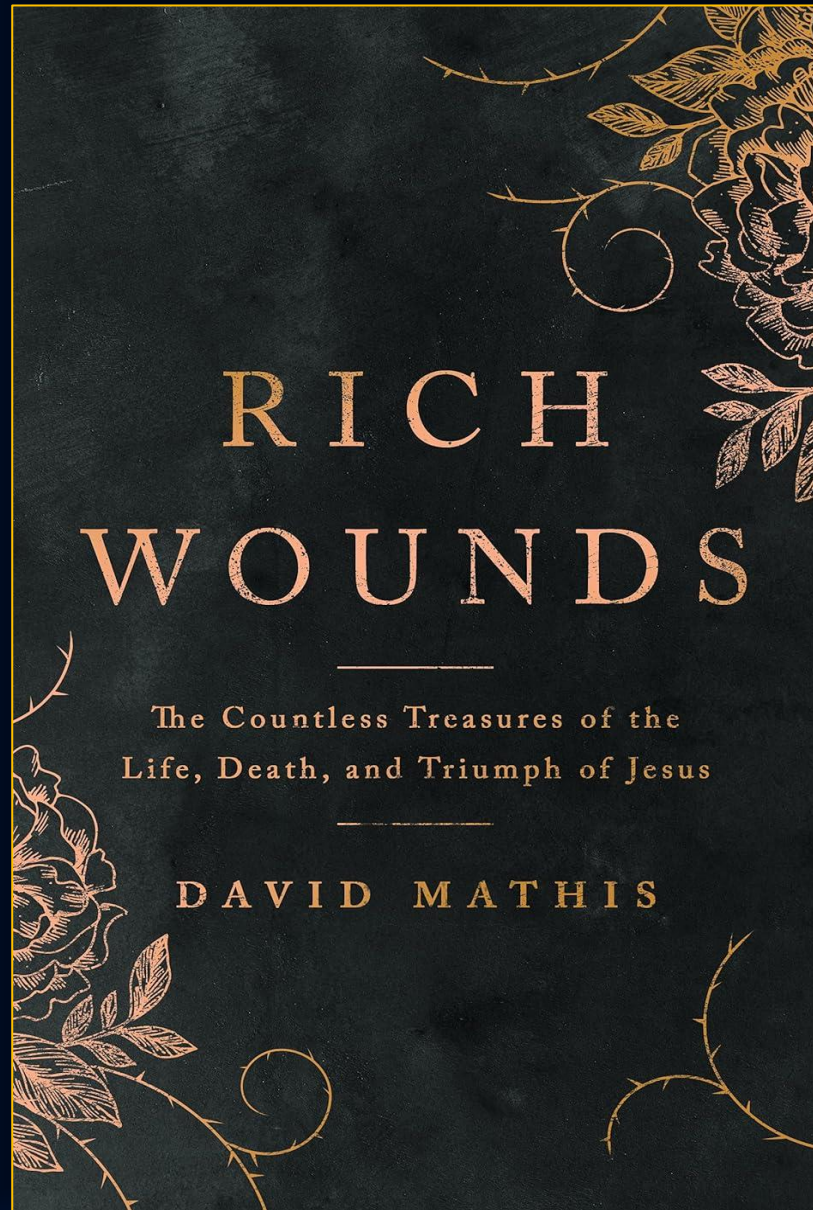
I'm thankful for your scars

'Cause without them I wouldn't know your heart

And with my life, I'll tell of who you are

So forever I am thankful for your scars.

## Cancer and the Cure

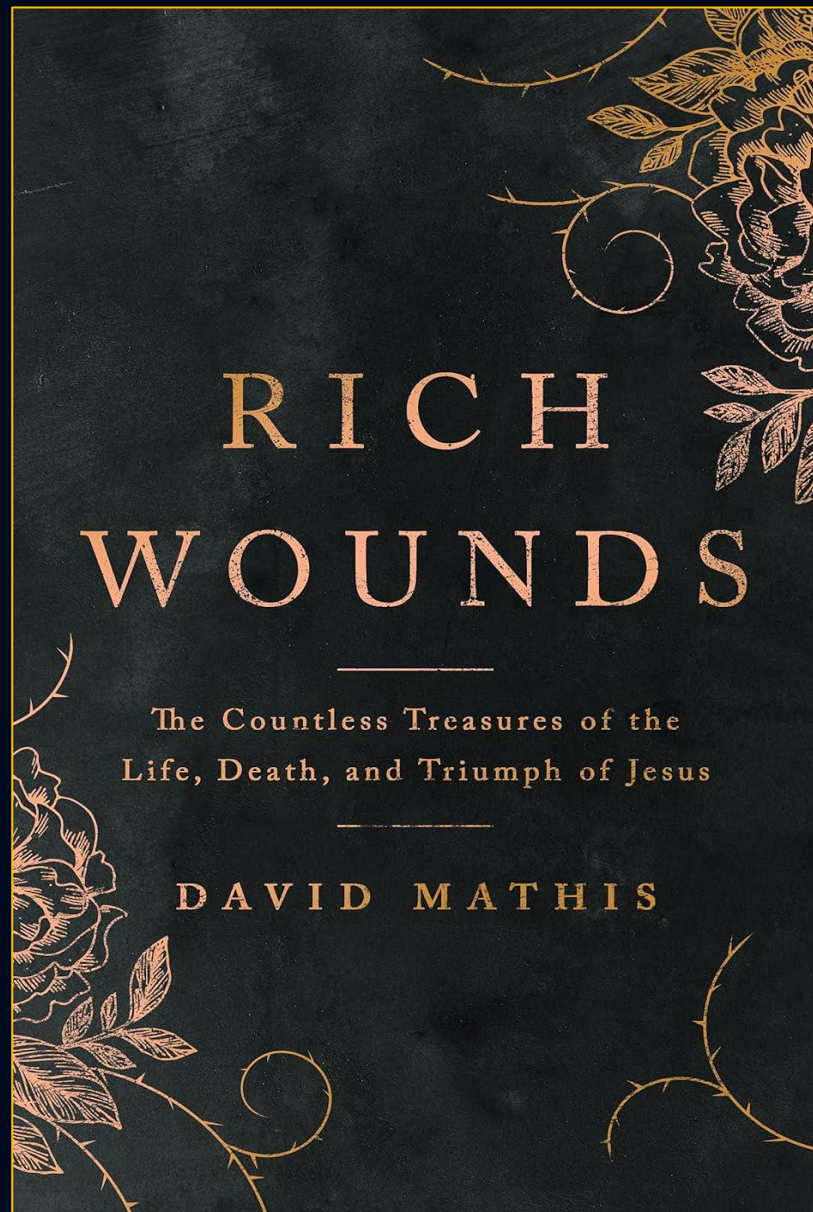


# Rich Wounds

*David Mathis*



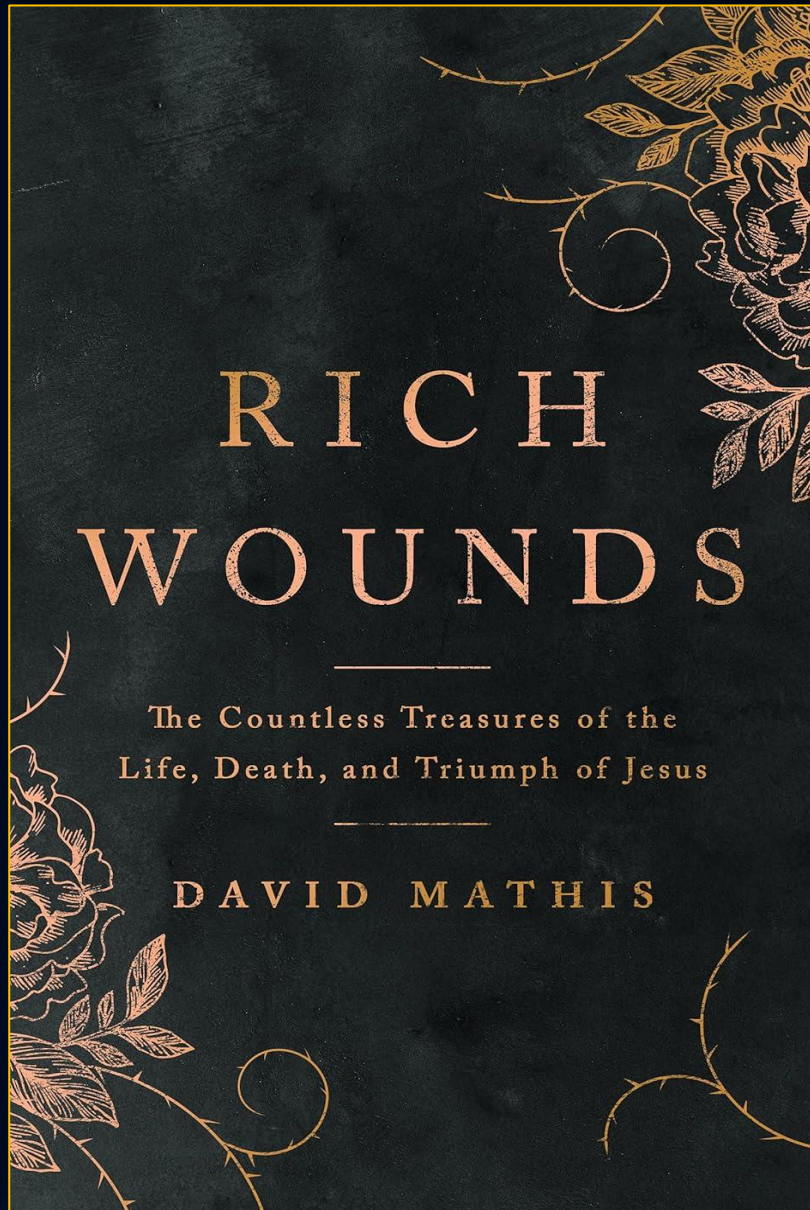
## Cancer and the Cure



We might expect that the Father would choose to remove the scars from his Son's eternal glorified flesh, but scars were God's idea to begin with.



## Cancer and the Cure



That Luke and John testify so plainly to Jesus' resurrection scars must mean they are not a defect but a glory.

Cancer and the Cure

John 20.27

Then he said to Thomas, *“Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.”*

Our wounds are healed when we by faith reach out and touch His healed wounds.

## Cancer and the Cure

### What does all this have to do with Marriage?

1. In our marriages, we need to see our wounding and scarring as greater than being wounded and scarred by our spouse.
2. And to see this, we must see the Wounds and Scars that we inflicted on Jesus - and be overwhelmed by His Love and passion to heal our scars with His.

Cancer and the Cure

Hurt people hurt people.

Loved people love people.

## Cancer and the Cure

With His Wounds, we are healed.

The Cure has begun.

# Cancer and the Cure

*Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.*

~ Romans 5.20 ~