

God's Love in Marriage

We love because he first loved us.

~ 1 John 4.19 ~

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 1

God's Purpose for Marriage

the two shall become one

~ Ephesians 5.31 ~

God's Purpose for Marriage

1. Deal with the malediction (loneliness).
2. Leave father and mother (priority).
3. Commitment to hold fast (vows).
4. Become one flesh (union).
5. Fully known – fully loved (naked).
6. Reveals the worst in us (not ashamed).
7. Cultivate God's beauty in the other (gospel).

God's Purpose for Marriage

7. Cultivate God's beauty in the other (gospel).

God's Purpose for Marriage

Let's pray for our Marriages:

Deep Oneness

Soul Nakedness

Intimate Friendship

Sacrificial Love

Week 2

Cancer and the Cure

Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.

~ Romans 5.20 ~

Cancer and the Cure

Common Cancer:

Often, I'm nicer to you...

Why?

Cancer of Familiarity

(Potential stressful situation: *"Let's be good to each other."*)

Cancer and the Cure

Selfishness



Always

Creates

Wounds

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

The Cure

1. True Love

2. Wounds

3. Scars

Cancer and the Cure

with His Wounds we are healed

with His wounding we are healed

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

But wounded people are hurting.

Cancer and the Cure

Hurt people hurt people.

Healed people help heal people.

Loved people love people.

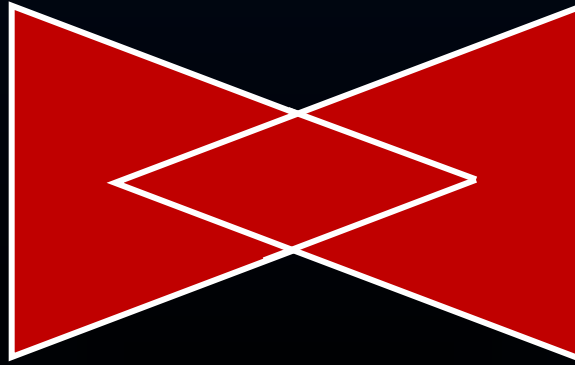
Week 3

God's Love in Marriage

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.

~ John 15.9 ~

God's Love in Marriage



Marriage

fight for

fight for



Husband



Wife



God's Love in Marriage

Satan's Plan



God's Love in Marriage

2 Corinthians 2.8-11

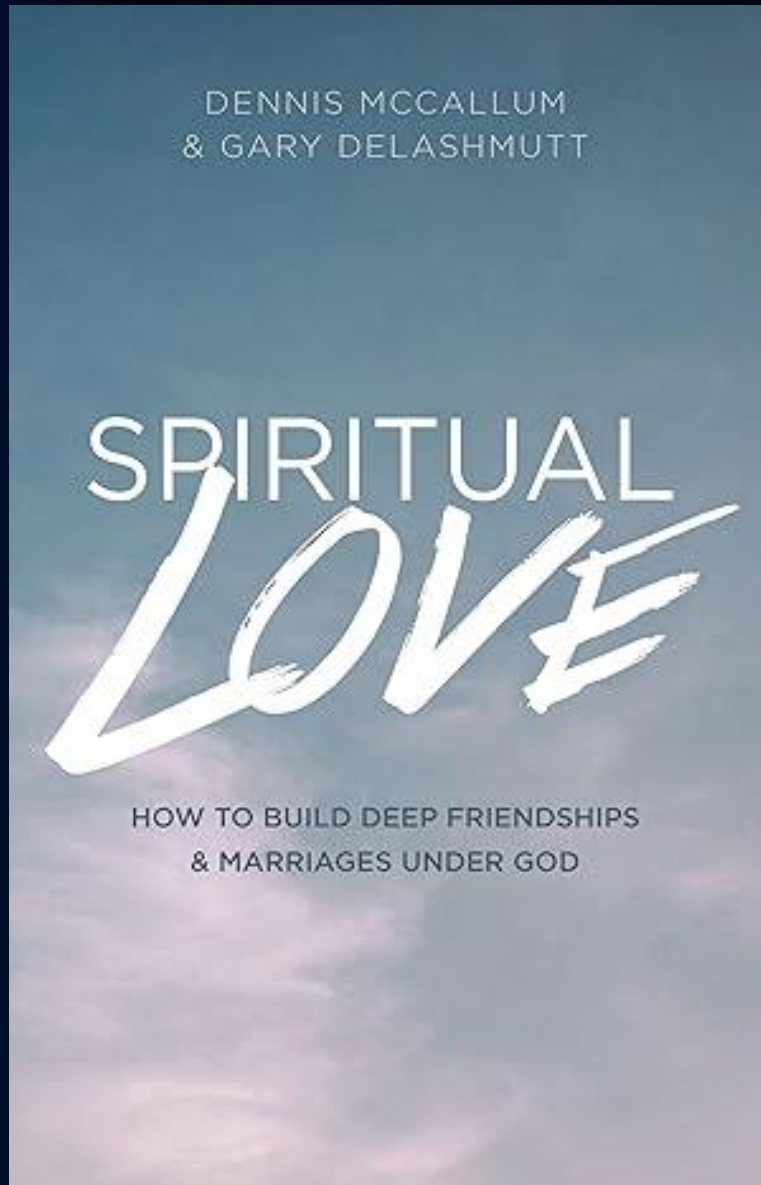
*So I beg you to reaffirm your love...
so that we would not be outwitted by Satan;
for we are not ignorant of his designs.*

Husband



Wife

God's Love in Marriage

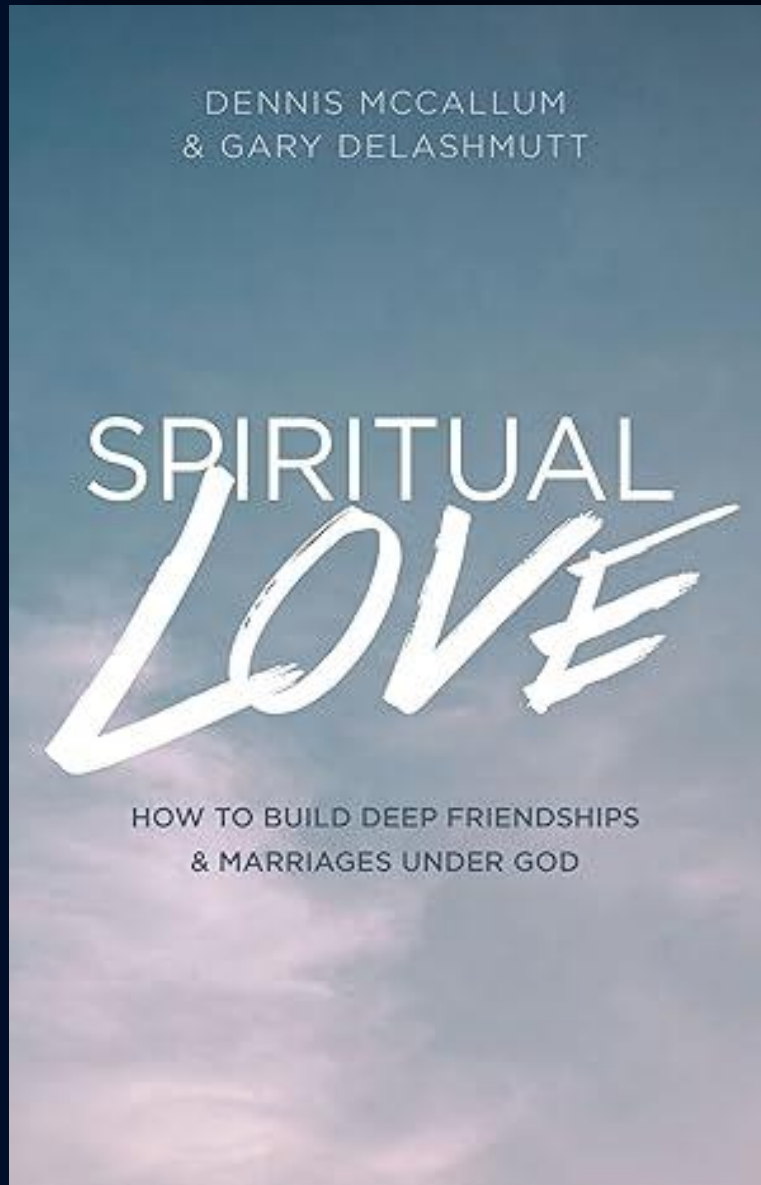


Spiritual Love

*How to build deep
friendships & marriages*

*under God
Her*

God's Love in Marriage

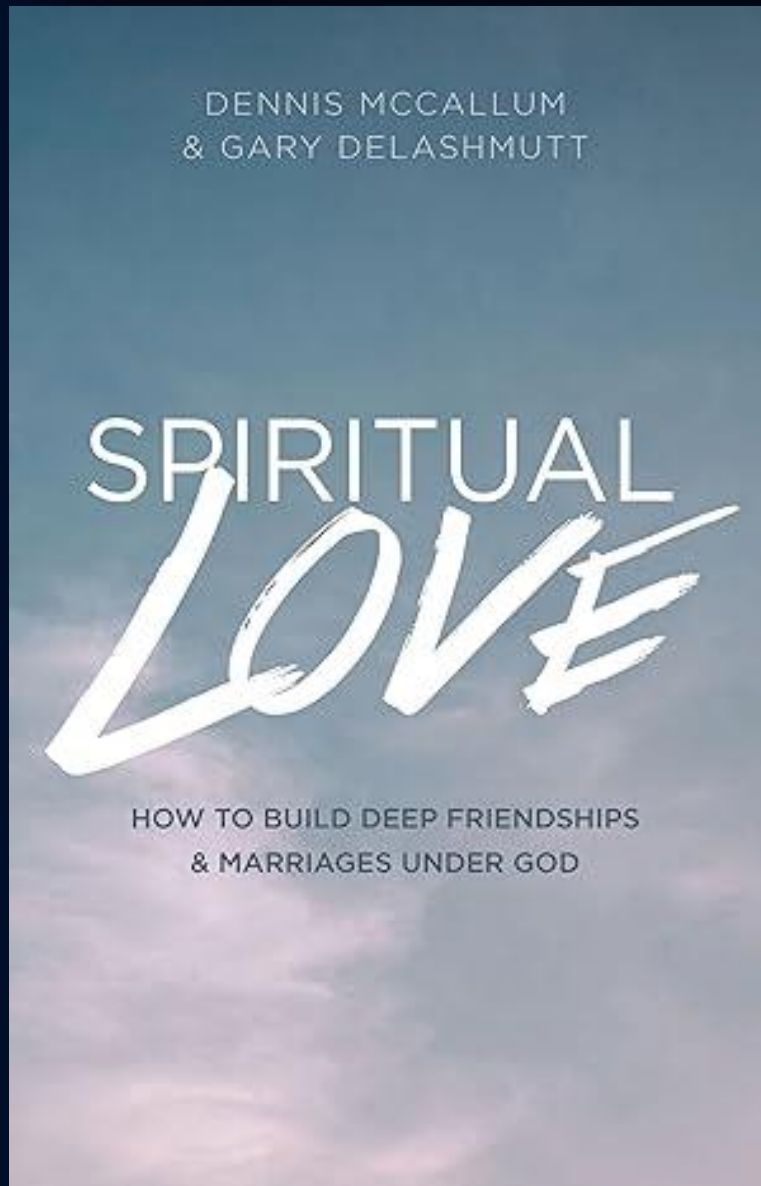


In one song, the lyricist complains that he keeps “falling in and out of love” with different women.

Spiritual loved-based relationships are free from this problem.

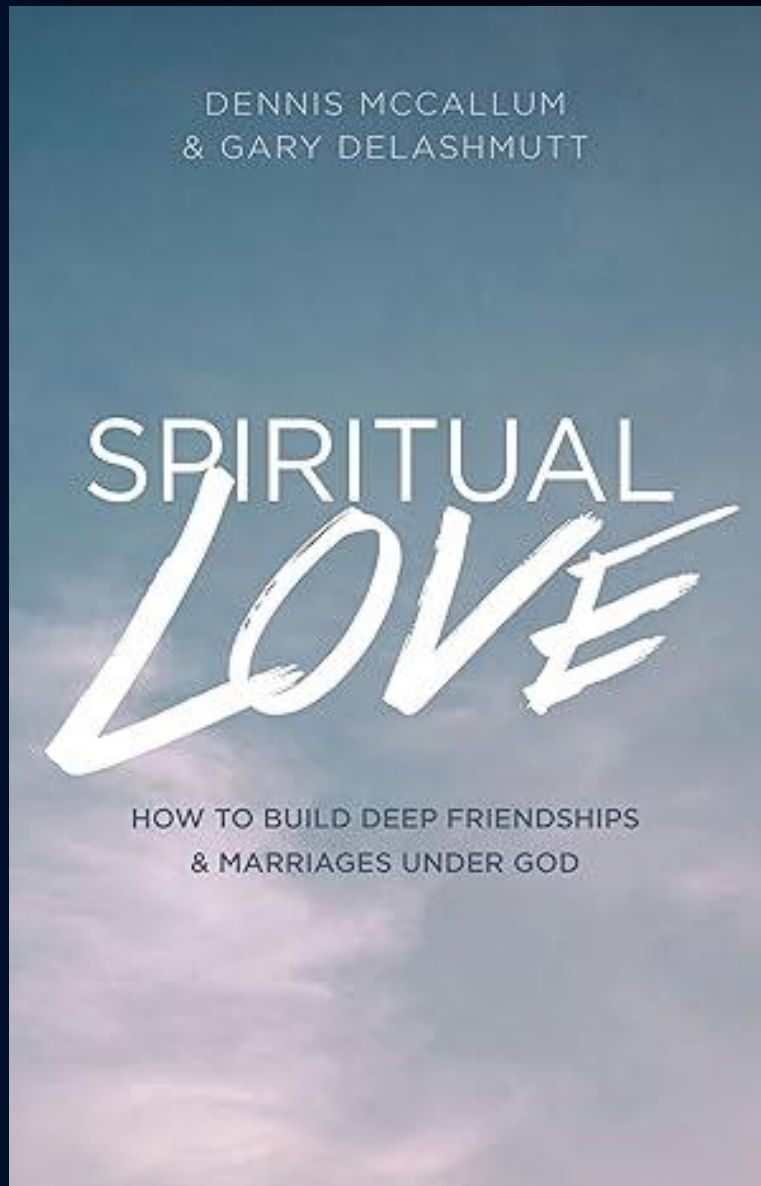
Because spiritual love is a voluntary or willful commitment to give, it's not subject to momentary feelings.

God's Love in Marriage



That's why you cannot “fall out” of spiritual love as if it was beyond your control. Neither do you “fall in” spiritual love. Instead, you have to build into a spiritual love relationship. In our culture, falling in (*eros*) love is certainly the main, if not the only, criteria for marriage choices.

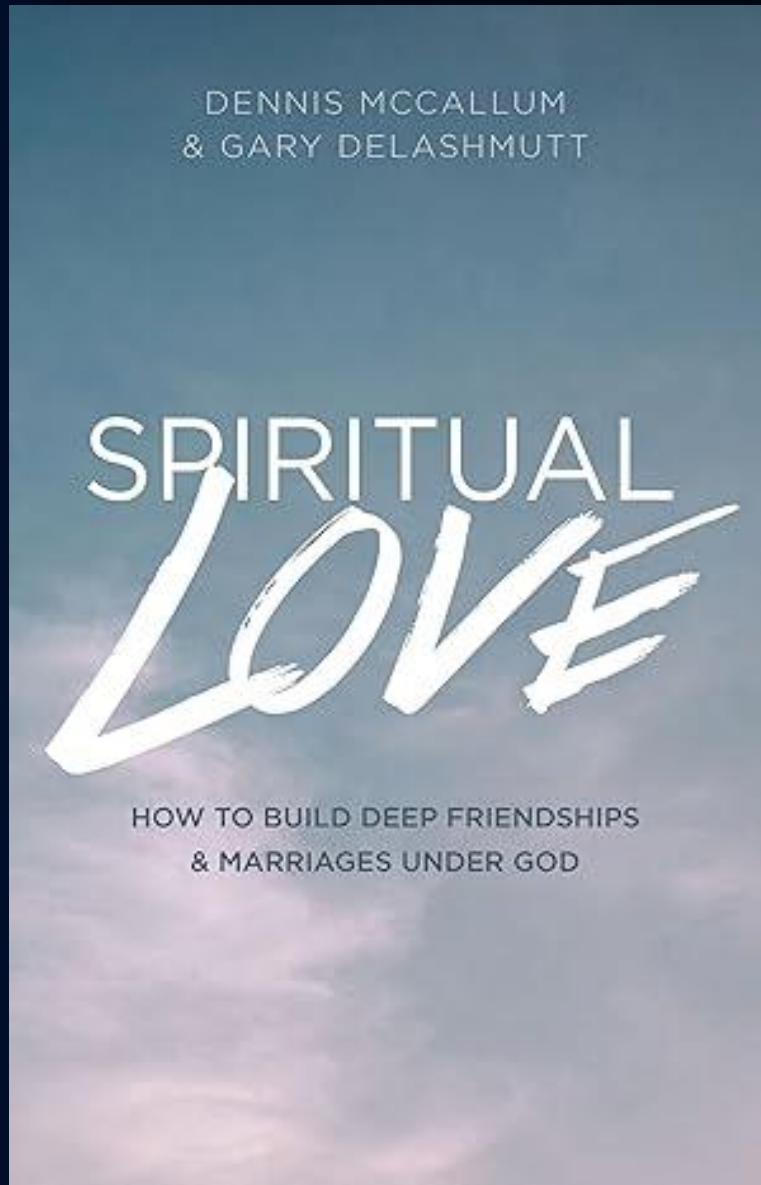
God's Love in Marriage



Using this criterion, a couple can justify even the most hazardous marriage plans with the plea, “But, were in love!”

The concept is so ingrained in modern culture that even long-time Christians find themselves asking, “How do I know when it’s really love?”

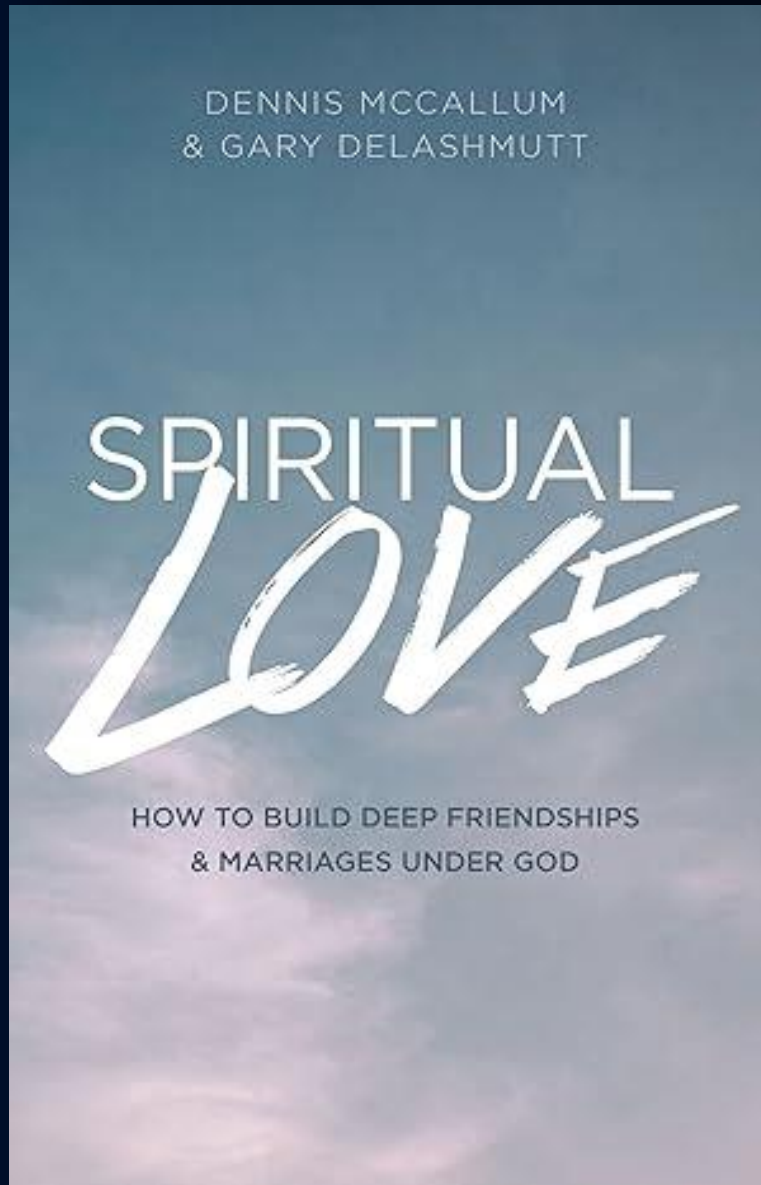
God's Love in Marriage



That question shows that they believe in a romantic attraction so strong that nothing can change it.

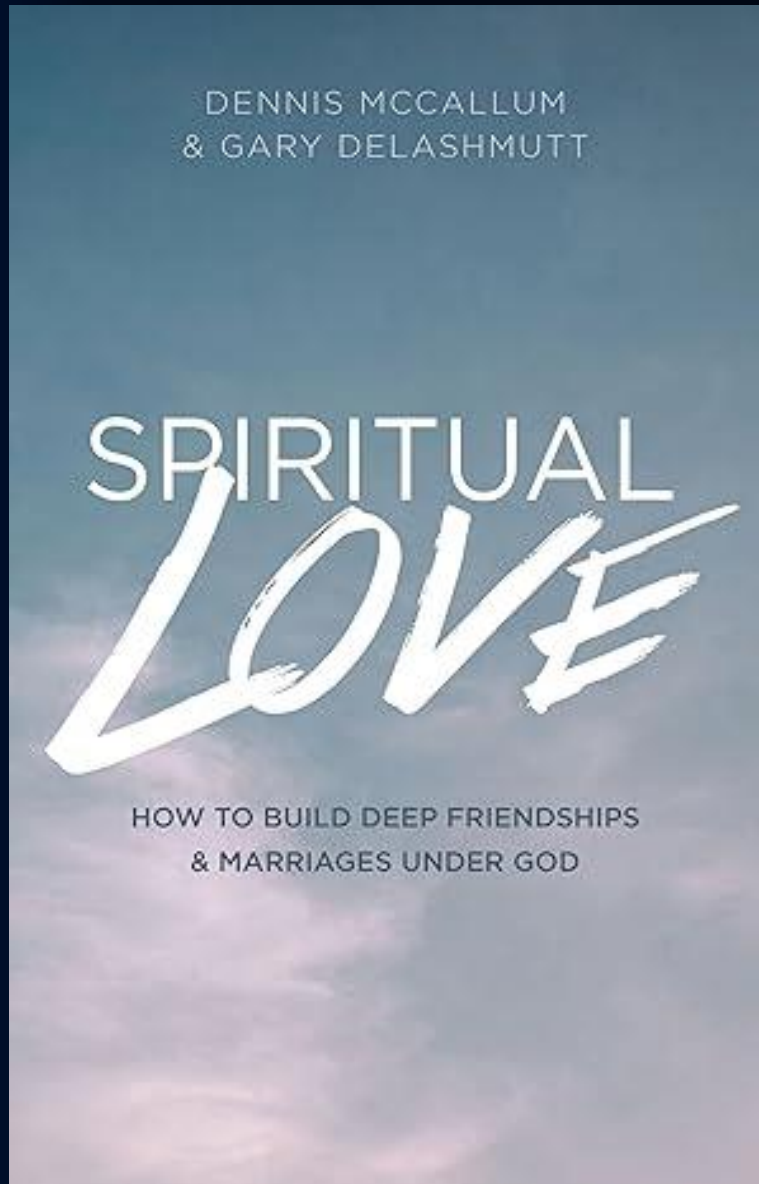
They think the key to success is making sure they find “true” love – eros love so true it will never fade. Once married, they are shocked when the love dissipates.

God's Love in Marriage



When this happens, today's social norm is to admit they made a mistake, get a divorce, and try again. Unfortunately, one could safely predict that the same cycle will repeat itself — until they change their minds about what kind of love is foundational to marriage.

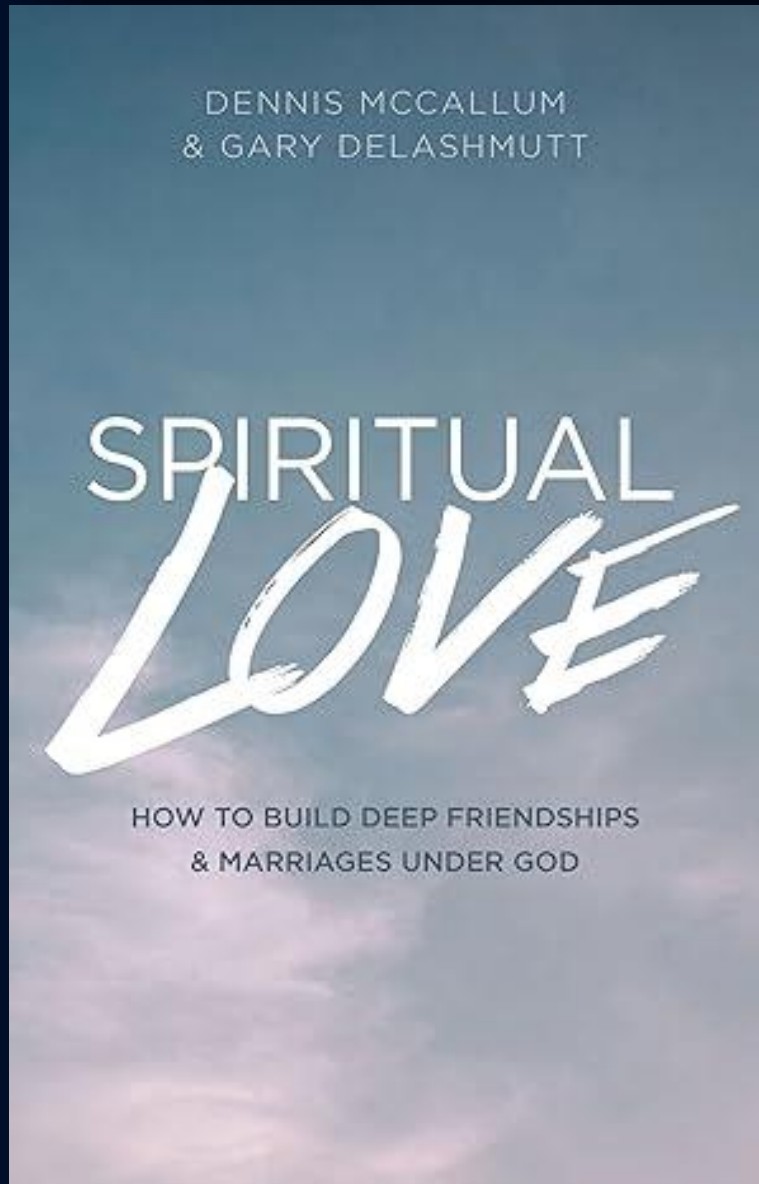
God's Love in Marriage



Today, many young Christians are engaging in a pointless search for “real” love, instead of developing the basic relational skills they will need in marriage.

Her

God's Love in Marriage



Others, already in a struggling marriage, are wasting time looking for lost eros feelings, or even becoming involved in extramarital affairs instead of setting about the task of learning to love as Jesus loved us.

God's Love in Marriage

Doing Love

Physical
Active

His Wounds

~ Isaiah 53.5 ~

Thinking Love

Mental
Creative

His Thoughts

~ Psalm 40.17 ~

Feeling Love

Emotional
Heart

His Tears

~ John 11.35 ~

God's Love in Marriage

Doing Love

Physical
Active

His Wounds

By His Wounds,
we are healed

Thinking Love

Mental
Creative

His Thoughts

~ Psalm 40.17 ~

Feeling Love

Emotional
Heart

His Tears

~ John 11.35 ~

God's Love in Marriage

Doing Love

Physical
Active

His Wounds

By His Wounds,
we are healed

Thinking Love

Mental
Creative

His Thoughts

I am poor and needy, but the
Lord takes thought of me.

Feeling Love

Emotional
Heart

His Tears

~ John 11.35 ~

God's Love in Marriage

Doing Love

Physical
Active

Thinking Love

Mental
Creative

Feeling Love

Emotional
Heart

5 Love Languages
Gary Chapman

His Wounds

By His Wounds,
we are healed

His Thoughts

I am poor and needy, but the
Lord takes thought of me.

His Tears

Jesus wept...
See how he loved him.

God's Love in Marriage

Doing Love

Physical

Active

Acts of Service

Physical Touch

His Wounds

By His Wounds,
we are healed

Thinking Love

Mental

Creative

Gift Giving

Words of Affirmation

His Thoughts

I am poor and needy, but the
Lord takes thought of me.

Feeling Love

Emotional

Heart

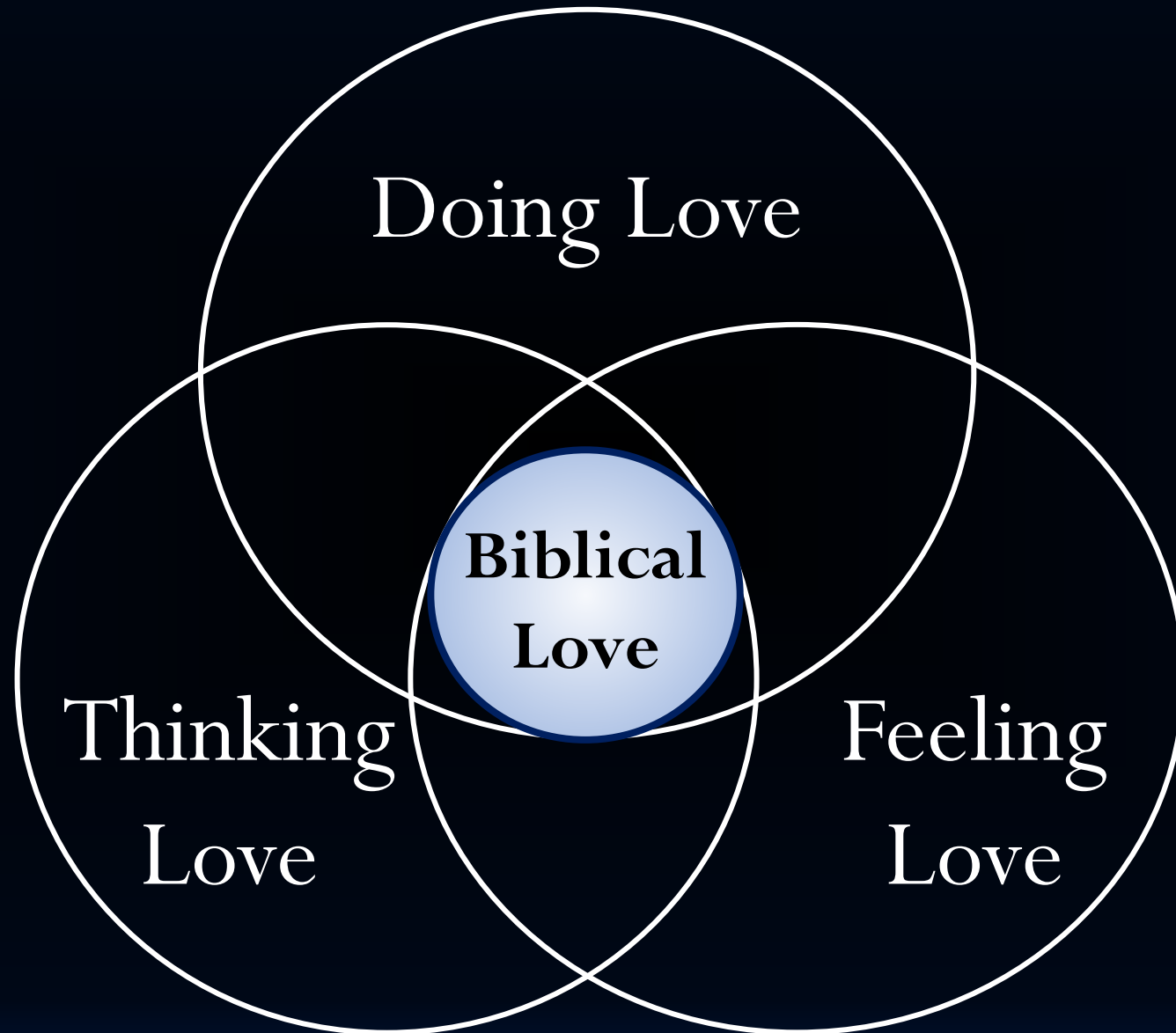
Quality Time

Quantity Time

His Tears

Jesus wept...
See how he loved him.

God's Love in Marriage



God's Love in Marriage

Ephesians 4.32

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you.

Kindness with a tender heart willing to forgive as Christ forgave

Doing Love

Feeling Love

Thinking Love

Spiritual Love

God's Love in Marriage

Ephesians 4.32

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you.

- Kindness as Christ is kind to me
- Tenderhearted as Christ is tenderhearted toward me
- Forgive as Christ has and continues to forgive me

God's Love in Marriage

Ephesians 4.32

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ forgave you.

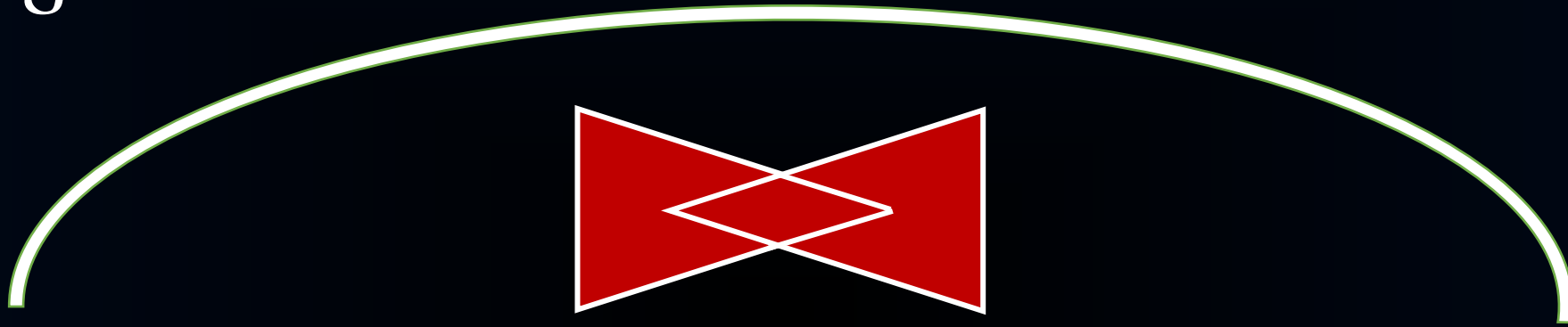
To the extent we're able to grasp just how much we've been forgiven, to that same degree is our ability and capacity to forgive and extend grace to others.

God's Love in Marriage

Forgiveness



Protection

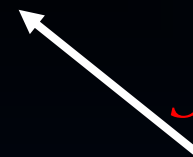


Marriage

fight for



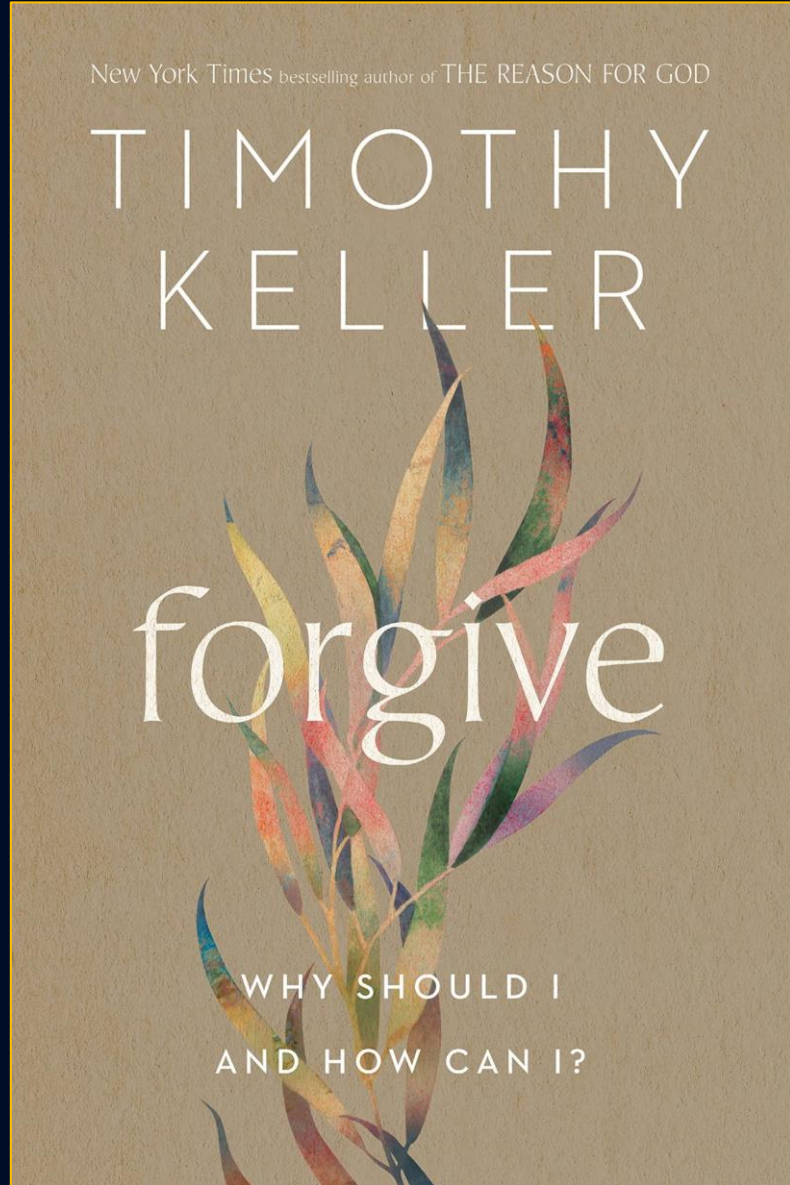
fight for



Husband

Wife

God's Love in Marriage



forgive
Why should I
and
How can I?

God's Love in Marriage

Loving:

the lovely

easy

conditional

~ Matthew 5.46 ~

*If you love those who
love you, what reward
do you have?*

the stranger

difficult

unconditional

~ Luke 10.29-37 ~

*And when he saw him,
he had compassion and
bound up his wounds.*

the enemy

impossible

counterconditional

~ Matthew 5.44 ~

*Love your enemies and
pray for those who
persecute you.*

God's Love in Marriage

We were God's enemy. (*Rom 5.10*)

Yet he has lavished us with His Love.

(to give readily and in large quantities)

pours, heaps, showers, rains, gushes, overwhelms
streams, hails, overflows, floods, inundates, bombards

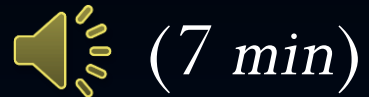
God's Love in Marriage

Our capacity and intensity of love is directly proportional to our willingness to believe just how much we are adored.

God's Love in Marriage

You are so loved!

Tim Keller:



God's Love in Marriage

If you don't understand the glory
of your relationship with Christ,
you will never be decent
in your marriage.

God's Love in Marriage

He is ravished with you!

God's Love in Marriage

He set His Heart on you!

God's Love in Marriage

He sings over you
in His Love

God's Love in Marriage

I wonder what she sees
in him?

God's Love in Marriage

Immature Love:

See the heart
but not the blemishes.

God's Love in Marriage

Mature Love:

See the blemishes

and the glorious person

that you're going to be in Me.

God's Love in Marriage

Thank God

Jesus is not like us!

God's Love in Marriage

When you're really in love,
you can't enjoy anything
without that person.

God's Love in Marriage

How does Jesus regard us?

God's Love in Marriage

Everything that happens
is done for the church...
you and me.

God's Love in Marriage

You won't ever have a good marriage
if you can't be ravished
with a love
with which He's ravished you.

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

(v. 1) Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

(v. 43) Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things;
let them consider the steadfast love of the LORD.

(ponder, wonder, perplexed, amazed)

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

*How can God love someone
with a heart like mine?*

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

1. Is your heart thirsty? Do you feel like your marriage to God and to your spouse is dry and barren like a desert?
2. Is your heart chained? Do you feel like your marriage to God and to your spouse is dark and lonely like a prison?
3. Is your heart foolish? Do you feel like your marriage to God and to your spouse is defined by poor decisions?
4. Is your heart tossed about? Do you feel like your marriage to God and to your spouse is thrown up and down like a storm at sea?

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

1. Some wandered in the Desert

(vs. 4-9)

Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to a city to dwell in;
hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

1. Some wandered in the Desert

(vs. 4-9)

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.

He led them by a straight way
till they reached a city to dwell in.

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

1. Some wandered in the Desert

(vs. 4-9)

Let them **thank** the LORD for his **steadfast love**,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!

For he satisfies the longing soul,
and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

2. Some sat in Darkness

(vs. 10-16)

Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death,
prisoners in affliction and in irons,
for they had rebelled against the words of God,
and spurned the counsel of the Most High.

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

2. Some sat in Darkness

(vs. 10-16)

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.

He brought them out of darkness and the
shadow of death, and burst their bonds apart.

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

2. Some sat in Darkness

(vs. 10-16)

Let them **thank** the LORD for his **steadfast love**,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!

For he shatters the doors of bronze
and **cuts in two the bars** of iron.

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

3. Some were Fools

(vs. 17-22)

Some were fools through their sinful ways,
and because of their iniquities suffered affliction;
they loathed any kind of food,
and they drew near to the gates of death.

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

3. Some were Fools

(vs. 17-22)

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.

He sent out his word and healed them,
and delivered them from their destruction.

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

3. Some were Fools

(vs. 17-22)

Let them **thank** the LORD for his **steadfast love**,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!

And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,
and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

4. Some went down to the Sea

(vs. 23-32)

Some went down to the sea in ships...

And he commanded and raised the stormy wind,
which lifted up the waves of the sea.

...their courage melted away in their evil plight;

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

4. Some went down to the Sea

(vs. 23-32)

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.

He made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

4. Some went down to the Sea

(vs. 23-32)

Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,
and he brought them to their desired haven.

Let them **thank** the LORD for his **steadfast love**,
for his wondrous works to the children of man!

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

(v. 43) Whoever is wise,

let him attend to these things;

let them consider the steadfast love of the LORD.

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

- We must be so careful not to simplify God's Love into what seems like love to us. (*positive circumstances*)
- God's Love will often make us uncomfortable.
- God's Love should cause us to consider, to wonder, to be shocked, amazed, and inspire a longing to go deeper.

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

How does God's Love help us
understand His Complexity?

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

Desert

Who made the desert?

Who made us to thirst?

Fools

Who made suffering possible?

Who made us depend on food?

Darkness

Who made the darkness?

Who made the prison bars?

Sea

Who made the stormy wind?

Who made the massive waves?

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

Desert

*We must recognize God's Love
in the desert and the deliverance*

Darkness

*We must recognize God's Love
in the darkness and the freedom*

Fools

*We must recognize God's Love
in the affliction and in His Word*

Sea

*We must recognize God's Love
in the storm and the calm*

God's Love in Marriage

Psalm 107

Desert

We need a King
(*protection*)

Fools

We need a Counselor
(*wisdom*)

Darkness

We need a Friend
(*comfort*)

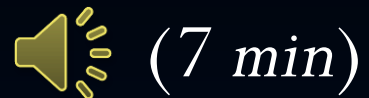
Sea

We need a Savior
(*rescue*)

God's Love in Marriage

Love that's Impossible!

Tim Keller:



God's Love in Marriage

God's Love

will never change your life
until you see that it's impossible.

God's Love in Marriage

Typical conservative approach:

“God is a king.

If I live a good life,
then He will love me.”

God's Love in Marriage

Liberal postmodern approach:

“If there is a God,
then He accepts everyone.”

God's Love in Marriage

Until you're troubled by it,
until you're perplexed by it,
you will never be changed by it.

God's Love in Marriage

Whose bars are these?

Whose gates are these?

Whose chains are these?

God's Love in Marriage

He cuts through His own bars!

God's Love in Marriage

If He was just a friend,
He never would have put them in.

God's Love in Marriage

If He was a king only,
He can't let them out.

God's Love in Marriage

Until you see the contradiction,
until you see the impossibility,
you will never be
amazed at His Love.

God's Love in Marriage

I don't get it.

God's Love in Marriage

This God gives us an impossible
love...

God's Love in Marriage

Darkness and deep gloom
came down on His Son.

God's Love in Marriage

Only on the cross do you have
a complex God – a real God...

God's Love in Marriage

that gives an impossible love
that transforms your life.

God's Love in Marriage

Do you see how Jesus Christ
made the impossible possible?

God's Love in Marriage

He cut through the bars.

God's Love in Marriage

1. God's love is complex – it includes the difficult circumstances we face.
2. We must consider and wonder at this love if we are ever to love our spouses well.
3. Let us learn to cultivate God's beauty in each other by pointing to this wondrous love.

God's Love in Marriage

1. Recognize it.
2. Ponder on it.
3. Cultivate it in one another.

God's Love in Marriage

We love because he first loved us.

~ 1 John 4.19 ~