



Dr. Dan Allender is a pioneer of a unique and innovative approach to trauma and abuse therapy. He earned a master of divinity from Westminster Theological Seminary, followed by a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Michigan State University. Dan served on the faculty of the Biblical Counseling Department at Grace Theological Seminary from 1983 to 1989 and at Colorado Christian University from 1989 to 1997. In 1997, Dan and a cadre of others founded the Seattle School of Theology & Psychology, where he served as president from 2002 to 2009. In 2011, he established The Allender Center with the mission of fostering healing and equipping leaders and mental health professionals with the courage to confront others' stories of harm. Dan has authored or co-authored [over two dozen books](#) and continues to serve as a professor of counseling psychology at the Seattle School.

CREDENTIALS

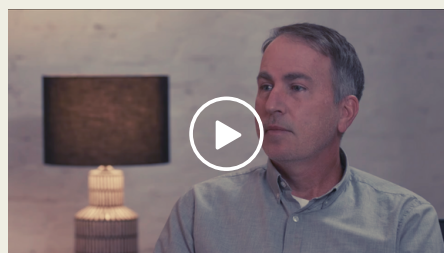
- A pioneer in trauma and abuse therapy, bringing decades of innovative, practical expertise
- With a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Michigan State University and a master of divinity from Westminster Theological Seminary, Dan combines theological depth with psychological insight
- Founded both the Seattle School of Theology & Psychology and The Allender Center, equipping leaders and mental health professionals
- Seasoned media personality and speaker

EXPERTISE

- Trauma and abuse therapy
- Healing and recovery frameworks:
- Faith and psychology integration
- Leadership in counseling and education:
- Story-centered therapeutic practices
- Marriage

MEDIA

Hear from Dan and Steve in the clips from Allender Center resources below.



ONLINE (CLICK TO VISIT)



Dan co-hosts *The Allender Center's* weekly podcast, which has had more than 3 million downloads. [Click here to listen.](#)

AVAILABILITY

- Widely available Mondays - Fridays
- Available to travel or via phone, Zoom
- Pacific Time (Seattle, WA)



The mission of [The Allender Center at The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology](#) is to foster redemption and healing in individuals, couples and communities by helping them tell their stories with awareness and integrity while also training leaders and professionals to engage the stories of others with courage, artistry and care. The Allender Center trains people to listen and work through narratives of harm—both their own stories and the stories of others—to foster truth, goodness and beauty in all of their relationships. The Allender Center operates out of Dan Allender's conviction that God, the author of all story, has called you to write your own story in interaction with the stories of others and as contributions to the ongoing narrative that God is telling. Through conferences, workshops, groups, training programs and other offerings, The Allender Center offers resources with a unique emphasis on empowering individuals to work on behalf of transformation in the lives of others—starting with themselves.

TO BOOK AN INTERVIEW, CONTACT:

MARK BRETA

MARK@JONESLITERARY.COM





Dr. Steve Call is a clinical psychologist specializing in marriage counseling. He is also the author of *Reconnect: Tools and Insights for Cultivating Meaningful Connection in Your Marriage*. Over his twenty years of working with couples, he has gained significant insight into what contributes to a married couple's distress. His writing and his professional therapeutic work offer expert guidance to couples seeking reconnection and meaningful connection. His work with couples provides insight, awareness and understanding so that helpful change can occur. He has been a faculty member with The Seattle School of Theology & Psychology for more than 20 years. He holds an MA in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary, an MA in Counseling and Family Therapy from Seattle Pacific University, and a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Seattle Pacific University. Steve also teaches master's level counseling students at The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology in Seattle, Washington.

CREDENTIALS

- Master's degree, Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary
- Master's degree, Counseling and Family Therapy, Seattle Pacific University
- Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, Seattle Pacific University
- 20+ years experience as Associate Professor of Counseling Psychology at the Seattle School of Theology & Psychology
- Over two decades of experience identifying the core factors contributing to marital challenges and providing strategies for effective change.
- Author of [*Reconnect: Tools and Insights for Cultivating Meaningful Connection in Your Marriage*](#)
- Founder of the Reconnect Institute (Bellingham, Washington)



[The Reconnect Institute](#) offers resources to help couples reimagine and re-experience the intimacy and connection that marriage is meant to offer. Through couples counseling, and his powerful guidebook for couples seeking renewed connection, *Reconnect: Tools and Insights for Cultivating Meaningful Connection in Your Marriage*, and other Reconnect Institute offerings, Dr. Call explains that when we become more aware of the myriad factors that contribute to disconnection, we can develop new understanding and strategies that promote deeper connection and healing interaction. The Reconnect Institute helps couples understand and change dynamics that disrupt connection, gain insight into the destructive effects of hurt, shame and blame, recognize how past trauma impacts relationships, learn strategies for staying connected in the midst of conflict, cultivate intimacy through play, and navigate the hopeful path toward reconnection.

EXPERTISE

- Marriage counseling and relationship therapy / Helping couples address distress and cultivate meaningful connection through proven therapeutic methods and insights.
- Reconnection and emotional intimacy in marriage
- Marital distress and change
- Combining theological principles with clinical psychology to address the relational and spiritual dimensions of marriage.

AVAILABILITY

- Widely available Mondays - Fridays
- Available to travel or via phone, Zoom
- Pacific Time (Seattle, WA)

ONLINE (CLICK TO VISIT)



LISTEN



[Click here to listen](#) to Steve co-host *The Reconnect Marriage Podcast* with his wife, Lisa. On the

show, Steve and Lisa offer insight and awareness into how couples can cultivate and experience marriage as a transformative and healing relationship, with focus on topics such as story, attachment, conflict, shame, trauma and play.

TO BOOK AN INTERVIEW, CONTACT:

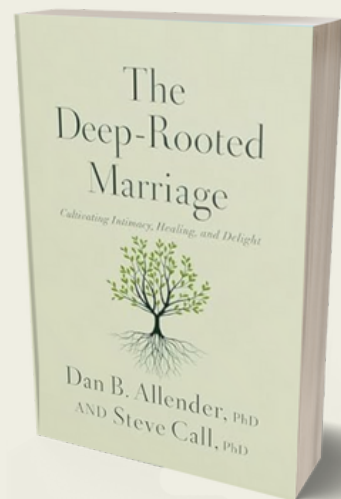
MARK Breta

MARK@JONESLITERARY.COM



ABOUT THE BOOK

- Thomas Nelson
- January 21, 2025
- ISBN: 978-1400344468
- Hardcover, \$29.99 USD
- 256 pages
- [Click the image for more](#)



Every relationship has its highs and lows, but we often don't know what to do with our "lows," or how we ended up there. In *The Deep-Rooted Marriage*, therapists Dan Allender and Steve Call show how deeper intimacy can bring more healing and delight. More often than not, they argue, the unseen elements creating friction, exacerbating our pain and standing in the way of intimacy are the stories of our pasts drifting into the present. But, if we are willing to look at them closely, we will be able to write a new story for the future. *The Deep-Rooted Marriage* shows how we can all experience a marriage that is not just good, but truly life-giving.

Marriage is not about merely getting along or resolving conflict through compromise. It reveals who you are and invites you to who you can become. Marriage offers a space for you to experience what you are made for—honor and delight. And it is the ground from which redemption is meant to grow, where together, you can reflect God's image and experience a taste of heaven. With more than seventy years of therapeutic experience combined, Allender and Call demonstrate how God is inviting you and your partner to a wild faith journey with the hope of transformation.

WHY IS IT RELEVANT?

- **Conflict resolution:** In a world filled with emotional hurts, what if marriages could support healing? This book provides tools for disrupting cycles of conflict rooted in shame, judgment and resentment. This is particularly relevant in today's polarized social climate, where healthy conflict resolution is more essential than ever.
- **Finding delight:** We can't expect our partners to make us happy all of the time, but we can overcome friction and find delight in honoring our partners. In a culture where despair often seems like the only logical response to the news of the day and the brokenness that surrounds us, we need to relearn how to root our marriages in joy.
- **Faith-based marriage:** We want our marriages to support spiritual growth for both spouses, but faith can feel intensely private and separate even the most intimate partners. This book explains how to connect with God and your spouse on your faith journey.

READERS WILL...

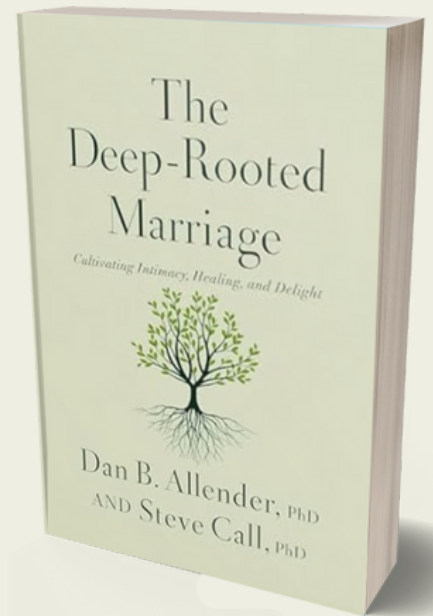
- Learn to address past trauma, giving them greater courage and compassion to engage their present struggles.
- Disrupt cycles of conflict based on shame, judgment and resentment.
- Create safety when feeling threatened and offer attunement, empathy and honor toward differences.
- Adopt humility, honesty, kindness, curiosity, defiance against what divides, and intention to bless.
- Learn practices that cultivate emotional intimacy, generating new goodness between and beyond individuals.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- What does it mean to honor your spouse?
- What problems most regularly appear in marriages?
- How can we approach marriage problems with faith and hope?
- How can conflicts in marriage be resolved, without one partner submitting to the will of the other every time?
- How do couples grow together? How do we let go of the expectation that the person we married will always be the same person?
- What narratives lead to marital conflict?
- How do stories from our past shape cause friction and our reactions to it?
- What kinds of things get in the way of intimacy?
- How can Christians use therapeutic skills to strengthen their marriages?
- What stops people from finding healing?
- How do shame, judgement and resentment keep us from living full lives?
- How can we adopt a posture of defiance against the things that divide us?
- What is emotional intimacy and how can we cultivate it within marriage?
- How can we create safety when feeling threatened?

"Every marriage is an ongoing story with highs and lows, joys and disasters. No one, not one single human being, wants to be shaped by their marriage for worse, but it happens. So, of course, the questions are, 'How do we avoid that? How can we build a stronger, healthier marriage, one that shapes us for the better?' Steve, my longtime colleague and friend, and I have been in dialogue with couples about this topic for decades."

— Dr. Dan Allender



However many hours or days in, and whatever the struggle, there was a first time you were in a tight spot with your spouse. A position where it was plausible to think, ‘this moment is hard. But it can be the making of us.’ And there have been countless more moments like it since. Every marriage is an ongoing story with highs and lows, joys and disasters. And it is shaping each of us, for better or worse. No one, not one single human being, wants to be shaped by their marriage for worse, but it happens.

So, of course, the questions are, How do we avoid that? How can we build a stronger, healthier marriage, one that shapes us for the better? Steve, my longtime colleague and friend, and I have been in dialogue with couples about this topic for decades. Between the two of us, we have more than seventy years of therapeutic experience involving hundreds of marriages. This book is a culmination of our longtime dream to distill and synthesize our most critical observations, insights, and suggestions. We are psychologists, therapists, professors, and, most importantly, spouses just like you. We’ve not only led others in building stronger marriages but also fumbled through our own personal growth.

Most couples want a better marriage, but the risk and work it would require seem insurmountable. They’ve made efforts to stoke the flame and renew the early sweetness and wonder, perhaps achieving it on a special trip, only to feel it slip away once the mundane and demanding realities of work and children crowd back in. Many good marriage books offer advice about how to spice up your marriage. This is not one of them. Steve and I start from a different premise: we are heading to a banquet of delight, as promised in Psalm 23, and along the way, we will walk through some dark valleys. The hard moments and the suffering are an inescapable part of our journey toward connection and closeness.

Some of us will rage at the darkness. Others will withdraw. Still others will press through with brute force but gain no new awareness, growth, or intimacy. Steve and I want to point you to another path, one that human instinct and societal voices will not lead you to. Our culture looks to the future and pushes forward with a relentless insistence that not much can be learned from the past other than the need to do better. What we lose in this narrow view, though, is what made us who we are today. Every marriage is a story of two people formed by different worlds joining together to create a universe that has never existed before. Your marriage is unique in all its goodness and in all that needs redemption.

Steve and I will explore with you how you came to be together and formed the new universe of your marriage. What heartache and hope, what trauma and dreams (often unaddressed and unseen) shaped the expectations and demands you now direct toward your partner and yourself? Understanding the past allows us to make sense of what’s not working in the present. If we don’t explore our earlier stories, we won’t grasp how our histories of brokenness and beauty are playing out now. And we’ll be bound to repeat them in one form or another. In a state of unawareness, we’ll continue making efforts, but not in ways that lead to change. “Just trying harder” will keep us stuck in ingrained patterns that cause disconnection, and eventually, we will conclude that change is not possible. Not engaging our stories is like cutting off the top of a weed instead of yanking it out by its roots. If we consider our marriages to be young trees we hope will grow and flourish, those weed roots will keep crowding our tree roots until we do something about them. Once we yank out the weed roots, our tree roots will get the nutrients they need. Our tree will receive life and strength. If we tend to the roots, good fruit will grow.

Every marriage is a story of two people formed by different worlds joining together to create a universe that has never existed before. Your marriage is unique in all its goodness and in all that needs redemption.

