

Cure Versus Healing

Just as it is possible to live well in the midst of disease, it is possible to appear healthy but carry pain deep inside. While the quick fix or band-aid solution can be appealing, God calls us to seek a life that transcends the present and is marked by deeper peace in Christ. Rev. Frederick Reklau calls this the distinction between **cure** and **healing**. Consider these differences:

- 1 Cure may occur without healing; **healing may occur without cure.**
- 2 Cure separates body from soul; **healing embraces the whole.**
- 3 Cure isolates; **healing incorporates.**
- 4 Cure costs; **healing enhances.**
- 5 Cure combats sickness, **healing fosters wellness.**
- 6 Cure fosters function; **healing fosters purpose.**
- 7 Cure alters what is; **healing offers what might be.**
- 8 Cure is an act; **healing is a process.**
- 9 Cure acts upon another; **healing shares with a sister, a brother.**
- 10 Cure manages; **healing touches.**
- 11 Cure seeks to conquer pain; **healing seeks to transcend pain.**
- 12 Cure avoids grief; **healing assumes grief.**
- 13 Cure encounters mystery as a challenge for understanding; **healing encounters mystery as a channel for meaning.**
- 14 Cure rejects death and views it as defeat; **healing includes death among the blessed outcomes of care.**

Questions for discussion:

- Which one of these statements speaks to you? Why?
- Where in scripture do you see Jesus modeling this concept?
- Take a closer look at #14. What does it mean to you to live **and** die well?

Adapted with permission from *Cure versus Healing*, Frederick W. Reklau, 2010.