

Ten Myths of Marriage

1. The purpose of marriage is my personal happiness!

No, the goal of marriage is oneness. The degree you have oneness is the degree you have happiness. Human pride must be crushed and we yield our rights.

2. We are to get our mate to submit to our way of thinking. No, to enjoy marriage we must give up a mentality of winning or focusing on self. If I win and you lose, we both lose. Marriage can be a tug-of-war, so drop your end of the rope! We are called to help our spouse grow into who they are supposed to be.

3. Love is what holds a marriage together. No, it is the commitment to the vows that makes it endure. Love flows and ebbs. Loyalty expressed by vows is the way God sees marriage.

4. Love is a feeling! No, it is a decision. It is defined in 1 Cor. 13:4-8 with 15 definitions of love. It takes an act of the will to walk in these. Selflessness is what builds up a marriage.

5. It will only require minor changes to adjust to marriage and my spouse. We all need to be crushed to our ideas. We must be reconstructed to serve our mate. A marriage won't maintain itself. It requires lavish and regular nurture to keep it healthy.

6. It takes work to make a good marriage. No it takes TIME! When you were dating or courting, you spent time and gave it without regret. You need to continue to have that attitude – investing daily in your marriage.

7. The goal in marriage is the fulfillment of the individual. No, we must abandon and surrender our individual will to the will of God, just like Jesus did. We face the sins of our mate and forgive them. As you give of yourself, you will find your true self.

8. You can change your spouse! No, the only person you can change is yourself. But changed people change people.

9. Living together before marriage is the logical way to test a person for marriage. No, you can't have a trial marriage as you can't practice permanence. Couples who co-habit before marriage are 61% more likely to get a divorce.

10. Marriage is a private affair. No, we are not solo Christians. We all have a responsibility for others. We can affect the marriage of others. We can strengthen existing marriages and leave a marriage legacy!