



PART ONE: MARRIAGE MYTHS

The idea of marriage is filled with so many myths: “True love comes naturally.” “I didn’t marry the ‘right’ person.” “If only *they* would recognize their need to change.” “If you loved me, you would know what I need.” “We can work this out on our own.”

These myths create a mountain of expectations that will never be met and often leave husbands and wives disappointed, disillusioned and unsatisfied. In this sermon we will attempt to debunk the myths and offer a more biblical view of marriage.

BIG IDEA: Are you who the person you are looking for is looking for?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Right Person Myth says, “If I marry the right person, everything will be all right.”

That’s what many married people told themselves when they were single. Then they set off looking for the right person. They met someone they were physically attracted to, added sex to the relationship right away, and fell into a kind of neurochemical bliss that made them believe that not only had they never loved like this, no one in human history had.



But once they got married, they had a problem: all their marriage had going for it was chemistry. Neither the husband nor the wife knew anything about relationships. Soon enough, their relationship problems began causing chemistry problems. The sexual part of the marriage died, leaving both of them frustrated and confused. So one or both of them decided that maybe he didn’t marry “the right person” after all. Separation and divorce followed.

The good news is that marriage doesn’t have to be like that. There’s a different way — a better way. Our culture doesn’t celebrate this different way because it’s boring. No one wants to watch a movie about a happily married couple. There isn’t enough drama. Fairy tales end with “and they lived happily ever after” because actually watching two people live happily ever after would be like watching paint dry. But there’s nothing boring about actually living happily ever after — and you can, provided you come to understand that “happily ever after” requires preparation and changing your mind-set.

1. Think about some popular movies, TV shows, songs, and websites. Based on what you are seeing and reading, what are some current rules in our culture regarding love, sex, and dating? Which of them do you agree with? Disagree?
2. Chris says that he has never seen “a marriage problem.” What does that mean?
3. What does “The present will be your past, but it will be present in your future” mean? How does it apply to dating? How have you seen this play out in your life?
4. What is the “right person myth”? Do you agree that it is a myth? How have you seen this way of thinking impact your relationships or those of your friends?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 11.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7, 11 (NIV)

6. In this passage, we find a list of qualities that are characteristic of the “right person.” Which of these qualities is the most difficult for you to exhibit? Which quality do you value most in someone you want to date, your spouse, or significant other?
7. Briefly list the qualities of the person you’re currently dating (or a person you’d like to date). Then briefly list the qualities of the person you’d like to marry. Are the qualities in the two lists the same? If not, why not?
8. Consider the “person you’d like to marry” list you just made. What kind of guy or girl do you think that person is looking for?
9. Are you spending more time looking for the right person or becoming the right person? Explain.

MOVING FORWARD

If you date with the idea that you’re on a quest for the right person, you’re setting yourself up for failure. Healthy relationships don’t result from pursuing desirable qualities on a checklist. You’ll never mysteriously, providentially run into the right person. You don’t need to find the right person. You need to become the right person. What’s one step you can take this week to start becoming the person the person you’re looking for is looking for?

Becoming *the person who the person you are looking for is looking for* is hard. But it is not as hard as getting married and being unprepared. Think about a couple of things you can do this week to become that person—the right person.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Memorize these key verses during the coming week:

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking... 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

