



Marriage Myths: Soul Mates | March 27, 2019

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

The best relationships are not something that we just stumble into. They take work, just like our faith. Read below to hear more.

Key Verses

Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV)

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ."

Discussion

Almost all of us read fairy tales growing up. And in virtually all of them, a male hero saves a damsel in distress at just the right time. We see it in all the classic movies... Rapunzel, Snow White, Cinderella, and many more. Each female character happens to fall right into the arms of their "one true love." In the real world, however, it doesn't quite work that way. But because we've been immersed in a cultural narrative that encourages us to seek out this one true love, we fail to recognize that fairy tales aren't real life.

1. Why do you think we culturally are so captivated by the belief that we can find our "one true love?"
2. Do you think that you've believed this myth at some point and on some level in your life? Explain.

There are certain myths about marriage and relationships we've inherited, that over time we don't realize we actually believe. Most people, without really knowing it or not, believe that we are born into this world with one person we are meant to be with. We think that somehow, the stars will simply align when it's time to meet our soul mate. And once we find that person, we are convinced it'll be nothing but happily ever after. But the reality is, that's not true. It assumes that not only are we professional detectives, but also that we just get really lucky. The truth is, the soul mate myth is not biblical. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that God has created us to find our perfect match.

3. Why do you think people fall victim to believing the soul mate myth? What about it is appealing to us as humans?
4. Why is it dangerous to believe that once you find someone to share your life with, it will be nothing but happily ever after?

In Colossians 2:8, we read an instruction that is meant to guard us from falling victim to hollow and deceptive philosophy, like fairy tales, that are built on human tradition. When we think about it in the context of relationships and the soul mate myth, this means that relationships take work. The best ones are not the ones that we stumble into, but the ones in which we choose to embody the characteristics of Christ, in order to serve the other person like Jesus would.

5. Why do you think God warns us against believing myths about our relationships?
6. Why does God suggest that in order to make relationships work, that we must embody Christ and serve our partner?

What's Next?

Every time the Bible talks about love and relationships, it describes the characteristics of people. The truth is that God hasn't created just one person for us, and prompted us to go find them. Instead, he gives us guidelines when looking for a person of Godly character to share our lives with. And once we find a person with the characteristics we are looking for, it takes work to keep that relationship afloat. Often times, somewhere down the road, our relationships stop being fairy tale like. And if we believe in the soul mate myth, we might be tempted to believe we just didn't marry the right person. But if we instead ground ourselves in truth, we see that every relationship will face trials and takes work.

This week, as you live out your faith, examine your relationships. Consider where you have believed the Hollywood version of finding your "one true love" and attempt to root out some of that, instead focusing on the truths we find in scripture. Look at your reality, and ask God to step into it.