

Introduction:

Among evangelical couples, what does the research actually say are the biggest issues in their life?"

1. Marriage struggles
2. Parenting in a secular culture

Fighting lies with truth

Lie #1:

When I finally meet "the right person," everything will work out fine.

The truth:

Marrying the right person is _____, but even with the greatest mate, a successful marriage requires following _____, putting in the hard work, persevering through difficulties, and relying on the Holy Spirit.

Key verse:

For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

Hebrews 10:36

Lie #2:

When I experience disappointment, annoyance, and anger toward my spouse, that means I'm "falling out of love" and I may have married the wrong person.

The truth:

_____ and _____ emotions are not only normal, they are essential to learning to _____ and forgive each other in the process of becoming one.

Key verse:

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

Don't buy the _____. Do it _____.

Discussion Questions:

1. Where do you see this "soulmate" myth being promoted? How has that lie shaped your approach to relationships?
2. Why is "endurance" such an unpopular concept for relationships today? When have you seen perseverance through difficulty make a relationship stronger?
3. During a conflict, what's your default internal reaction? How quickly do you find yourself blaming the person involved instead of focusing on the situation?
4. How does the idea that conflict is *essential* for growth change your perspective? What does it look like to engage with conflict constructively instead of just avoiding it?