

Introduction:

A lie has been spread all across the world, that it really doesn't matter if you're married or not. This mindset has infiltrated the Church.

Fighting lies with truth

Lie #3:

Marriage is merely a man-made set of rules and restrictions. I can tailor my marriage however I want to fit my needs.

The truth:

Marriage is an institution created by God. He designed it with specific guidelines and roles to provide _____, _____, and _____ intimacy as a family's foundation.

Key verse:

²⁴ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Genesis 2:24-25

Lie #4 (for men):

Until my wife shows me the respect and physical affection that I need, she shouldn't expect me to step up and lead my family God's way.

The truth:

It is tempting to wait for my wife to do her part before I do mine. But the only person I can change is _____. Transformation will occur when I _____ on being the _____ God wants me to be.

Key verse:

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her.

Ephesians 5:25

Lie #5 (for women):

Until my husband takes the initiative in the financial, emotional, and spiritual aspects of our relationship, he shouldn't expect me to show him the respect and affection God calls me to as a wife.

The truth:

It is tempting to wait for my husband to do his part before I do mine. But the only person I can change is _____. Transformation will occur when I _____ on being the _____ God wants me to be.

Key verse:

²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the Church, His body, of which He is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the Church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Ephesians 5:22-24

Discussion Questions:

1. How has the culture's casual view of cohabitation and marriage affected the attitudes and choices of Christians you know?
2. What is lost when a couple treats marriage as a customizable arrangement instead of a divine covenant with a specific design?
3. Why is it so difficult, yet so powerful, to accept that you can only change yourself in a relationship and not your partner?
4. How does changing your behavior as an act of worship to God, rather than to get a specific reaction from your spouse, make your efforts more sustainable?
5. Which is more challenging for you: communicating frustrations without blame, or identifying your own faults? What's one step you could take to improve in that area?