

7 Christian Marriage Myths (Part 1)

By America's Family Coaches in Thriving Marriages email Feb. 20, 2023

Q: *We have a Christian marriage — so why is it so painful? Shouldn't being believers shield us from the problems we're having?*

A: *Many Christian marriages just are not going well. Both spouses are Christians, but they can't seem to get along. Both worship the same God but have completely different understandings of how to live life. Sometimes they treat money differently, discipline the kids differently, worship differently, communicate differently, or even have very different religious beliefs. At other times, one spouse claims to be a Christian but doesn't live a Christian lifestyle.*

The reality of marriage is tough. Since we're fallen humans, we often face disappointment. Discouragement looms over us and, unless confronted and resolved, it distances us from our mates.

The hard truth is, your marriage will not be perfect just because you're Christians. Beware of buying into the following myths:

Christian Marriage Myth #1: *If I have a daily quiet time and attend church regularly, I'll have a happy marriage.*

In church, you often hear that if you spend time with God every morning and study the Bible, your life and marriage will go well. The truth is every couple goes through tough times—even Christians. Jesus clearly states that “on earth, you will have many trials and sorrows” (John 16:33). How you apply the truth of the Bible matters.

Christian Marriage Myth #2: *Our marriage will be divorce-proofed if we're both Christians.*

Many Christian couples feel ashamed when they stand at the brink of divorce. They don't think anyone will understand, so they wait to go for help until it's too late. The truth is, being a Christian doesn't guarantee you won't feel like getting divorced. The key to a strong, divorce-proofed marriage is the hard work of living out what you believe and upholding the virtues of Christlikeness—especially during difficult times.

Christian Marriage Myth #3: *Scripture can be a simple guide for our marriage.*

Scripture can be a valuable guide for daily living—as long as you apply God's truth and don't misinterpret it. Scripture teaches that For example, God intends for man & wife to be one unit, working together for the good of the whole. Together you make better decisions than you do individually. That's not always simple to do.