

SOUL MATES

A Fact or A Hoax?



*“The Perfect Match or Soul Mate
Does Not Exist”.*

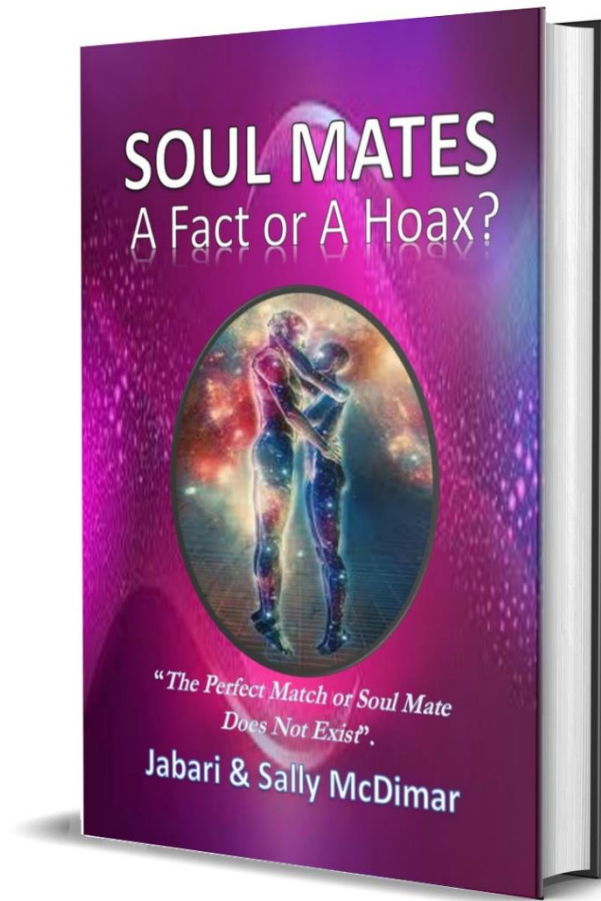
Jabari & Sally McDimar

SOUL MATE: A Fact or A Hoax

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“Perfect Match or Soul Mate Does Not Exist”.



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INTRODUCTION



MARRIAGE RATES HAVE plummeted over the last decade. And compared to previous generations, young single people today are perhaps spending more time on social media, searching for their *Better Half*, *Perfect Match*, or *Soul Mates*.

Despite these trends, a yearning for a soulmate remains a common thread across the generations. Most Africans, it seems, are copying the Western world and believe there is a *perfect match* for them somewhere around the world. According to a 2019 poll, two-thirds of Americans believe in soulmates. That number far surpasses the percentage of Americans who believe in the biblical God.

This soulmate is an ancient Greek ideal that survives to this day as a fixture of romance novels and movies. That predestined *better half* is out there (*hopefully with a charming smile and eyes that sparkle like a glass*). Once found, he or she will bring eternal bliss.

The potential benefits of such a vision are understandably appealing. Believing your partner was made just for you reinforces the positive aspects of your relationship and conveniently assigns some of the relationship heavy lifting to fate. Plus, who can deny the allure of “*happily ever after*”?

But don't leap into a long-term commitment simply because someone makes your heartbeat with unusual gusto.

This idea that there is a person out there who can make each of us *happy* and *complete* is constantly conveyed through portrayals in films, books, magazines, and television. And a lot of us believe this idea. But is the idea of *one perfect soulmate* in all the world for each of us biblical?

Culture loves to plant things in our minds, especially things about romantic relationships. "*And they lived happily ever after,*" is the fairy tale ending many singles are looking for. The cultural dating norm insisting that singles should search to find their *perfect match* – *soul mate* – has left some Christian singles scratching their heads. Nowhere in the Bible do we see this idea that God has one special someone for you that you must search to find.

Many singles, hoping and looking for "*the right one,*" hope to meet someone who would be a *perfect match* for them; someone who would be fun to be with for their whole lifetime. As such, many of us entertain the idea of a soul mate: someone whose fate is intertwined with us, dictated "*by the universe.*"

In my quest to know the truth about soul mates, I found a set of amazing research looking at whether the belief in soulmates helps or hurts us. It all boils down to how you answer this question: Do you believe there is one person who is meant just for you?

Chapter One



DO YOU BELIEVE IN SOULMATES?

AFTER GOING THROUGH in-depth research and asking questions, I was pretty surprised to see how many Christians believe in soul mates. And then I got to wondering—does this help or hurt us?

There are two sets of beliefs. People have either:

Destiny Beliefs: I am destined to be with a specific person. I have a soulmate. I have one person who is meant for me.

Growth Beliefs: Relationships progress slowly and we grow to fit together. Relationships take effort. I can build love.

Which camp do you fall in? This is no small question. Your answer to that question greatly dictates the success or failure of your relationship. Specifically, here's the big news:

People who believe in soul mates are more likely to break up, give up, and have difficult relationships or marriage.

People who believe in soul mates are using their mental energy to assess the person they are with. In other words, they are constantly asking themselves:

- Is this person my soul mate?
- Can I do better with somebody else?

- Is this the best I can do?
- How can I walk out of this relationship?

Whereas, people with *growth beliefs* are asking themselves very different internal questions:

- Are we a good fit?
- How can I be a better partner?
- How can we get closer?
- What can I do to make this better?

If you believe that there is only one person for you, you are more likely to spend energy and time looking for that person instead of cultivating existing relationships.

Destiny Believers have passionate, intense, short-term relationships, but often become disillusioned and frustrated when something inevitably goes wrong. They believe in ‘*deal-breakers*’ and are constantly looking for the *perfect* person. They often view compromise as settling. When something negative happens in the relationship they think, “*Better walk out and find my Perfect Match.*”

Growth Believers take a bit longer to commit. Even early in the relationship, they are more motivated to find solutions, compromise or explore new ideas. They often view compromising as growth. When something negative happens in the relationship they think, “*Better work this out and grow unto Perfection.*”

Looking for your soul mate decreases the motivation to make relationships work. This doesn't mean settling, it means being open to growth and adaptability.

When you love someone, you grow for them, you grow with them, you change together.

I don't believe there are '*perfect*' people without flaws or areas for improvement. We can all be better. True love is to help the person we love to get better with us. I believe a true '*life partner*' is someone who challenges you to be better and you do the same for them.

I WAS ONCE A VICTIM

I used to be a *Destiny Believer*, believing in the lies of Soul Mates. It tormented me for ten years. I met a Lady whom I believed was my soul mate. I tried all I could to marry her, but she declined because there was another suitor whom she deeply love. Even after the Lady got married, I was still obsessed with her until God opened my eyes through the revelation of the Word and I was set free.

There are so many people in bondage today because they believe that they have either lost their soul mates or yet to find them. God has never promised us a soul mate.

- Souls can never marry.
- Spirits can never marry.
- But only human marries in the earth realm.

This is where many are missing it in their quest for a life partner. We will correct these false doctrines of demons

trying to change the ONE FLESH UNION into a SOUL MATE UNION. This preposition has brought many untold miseries. I remember a woman who believed her late husband is still her soul mate. She refused to remarry. And guess what? Her late husband always appears in her dreams and has sex. This is demonic.

Chapter Two



A FACT OR A HOAX?

IN THIS CONTEMPORARY AGE, you'll often hear about soul mates from popular culture and read about them on online dating sites. You'll read about them in fiction and watch Hollywood captivate your heart with romantic notions of soul mates like that of Romeo and Juliet.

But most of what you've heard about soul mates is myth and fantasy of what our minds desire to believe. And to the Christian, the idea of a soul mate is a hoax, not Biblical.

WHAT IS A HOAX?

A *hoax* is a falsehood deliberately fabricated to masquerade as the truth. It's a deliberate trickery intended to gain an advantage; something that has been established or accepted by fraudulent means.

Whereas, the word *fact* is a concept whose truth can be proved; a piece of information about circumstances that exist or events that have occurred; a statement or assertion of verified information about something that is the case or has happened.

In recent years several ancient heresies have begun sweeping through the church again, deceiving thousands, even sidetracking whole movements. These are the very same deceptions that tried to seduce the first-century church, which much of the New Testament was written to combat. They gain inroads by the subtlest, seemingly innocent ways but quickly begin to erode the very foundations of Christianity to the point where those who continue in them are actually "*severed from Christ*" in the very way that the Scriptures warn this will happen.

In this time and season, demons are actively working today to produce *counterfeit marriage* practices that bring temporary relief or lasting bondage.

In many places, Scripture warns us against false doctrine. One such place is 1 Timothy 4:1: "*The Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons*" (NASB). The KJV words it as "*seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons.*" A doctrine is a teaching or a set of principles. The "*doctrines of demons,*" then, are things that demons teach to deceive the believers.

There can be good and bad doctrines. The word *doctrine* can refer to the biblical teachings of a church or a pastor. Or, in the case of 1 Timothy 4:1, the ungodly teachings of Satan. Those who follow the doctrines of demons "*will fall away from the faith.*" That is, heeding the doctrine of demons is a serious matter because it involves a departure from the truth of Christ's gospel. Because these doctrines are so blatantly

contrary to Scripture, we did not think that they had a chance to succeed in the church. We were wrong, and have been shocked as we have seen some of the most seemingly solid, faithful believers carried away with these deceptions. Most quickly become isolated and then are deceived to the point of even denying the cross and return to various forms of legalism for righteousness and even the Law of Moses, just as the Scripture above warns we would see in the last days.

Since demons are not visible (*and if they were, we would hardly invite them to speak in the church*), they must take a deceptive route to get their false message heard. They are just like their leader Satan, the "*father of lies*" (John 8:44). How do they promote their message? Through false teachers—"through the *insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared*" (1 Timothy 4:2). Jesus warned us to "*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves*" (Matthew 7:15).

THE DECEPTION OF SOUL MATE

One doctrine that is seeking to make inroads into the church to destroy God's original plans for marriage is the teaching on Soul Mate.

When the serpent approached Eve in the garden of Eden, he first questioned what God said ("*Did God say so?*"), which made Eve question what God said, and he then spun it his way. Eve was deceived by the serpent, bringing sin into the world. Paul talks of deceitful spirits in connection with doctrines of demons. Satan and his demons still try to deceive people today.

How can we identify if teaching is false?

It will not line up with God's Word. Satan is a master manipulator, which is why doctrines of demons are so rampant—they have been his proven strategy from the beginning. Through His Word, God has given us everything we need to resist the temptations of the enemy and discern true doctrine from false doctrines (Ephesians 6:10–18). We should all pay attention to any *red flags* in the teachings we listen to and take them to the Lord. Search the Word and ask God for wisdom and discernment (see James 1:5; 1 John 4:1–3). When we know what the Bible says, we will also be able to recognize the teachings that are contrary to it.

Satan knows how to manipulate us, and that is why the doctrines of demons are so effective. We can identify the doctrines of demons by immersing ourselves in the truth. We must read and study our Bibles. When we know what God says on any given subject, then any deviation from that teaching will send up a red flag. When we are in tune with God's Word, aberrations from that keynote will ring hollow and off-key.

What accounts for the persistence of the soul mate ideal in the contemporary age?

Chapter Three



THE HOAX OF SOUL MATE

SOME YEARS AGO there was a popular movie whose message was that somewhere in the world is a perfect soul mate made just for you in heaven - you just have to find him/her.

The movie, called “*Made in Heaven*” tells the story of two people who had a few chances encounters on earth and had an immediate sense of some deep connection. They were made for each other before they were ever born and until they connect they will never feel *complete* or *fulfilled*. The plot is that these encounters did not bring them together due to interference and heaven must intervene.

This popular notion of a “*soul mate*” suggests that God has a person out there for you to simply discover has no basis in reality.

Yet, many single people are looking for their perfect “*soul mate*” who will *complete* and *satisfy* their most basic longings- and many married people fear they missed connecting with them.

The idea of a soul mate is that a person fits perfectly with another particular person who is specifically designed for them. This concept is not biblical.

God will indeed take two people who are joined together by marriage and by His grace and in His timing, the two will become one flesh, “*For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh*”; (Eph. 5:31)

It is possible to marry the wrong person, this is why it is most important to seek God’s wisdom and knowledge before committing to an individual based on thoughts and feelings alone. It is wise to seek God first, His will and His guidance; trusting Him to lead and guide us into all truths. We are not to lean on our understanding. Only God knows the past, present, and future. He also knows every heart.

THE CONCEPT OF SOUL MATE

The term soulmates are used in Christian and non-Christian circles alike. It can be a polarizing term especially depending on how the term is defined.

73% of Africans believe in soulmates, with 74% of men compared to 71% of women believing in this concept. These statistics are a sign of the times rather than a sign of what God intended for marriage.

The notion that God formed a romantic partner out there tailor-made just for you is alluring. After all, who wouldn’t want to find perfect love? Who wouldn’t want that special someone with whom everything falls naturally into place? The idea of the soul mate leaves many in the Church with hearts aflutter, eagerly awaiting that fateful day when the

heavens will open up and their perfect partner will appear before them, hand-delivered by God, Himself.

Unfortunately, this is a non-biblical concept that is ruining Christian marriages.

While this assertion may seem to fly in the face of everything you've ever been taught about romance, let's take a look at why *divinely perfect mates* simply aren't Biblical, how the belief in them can negatively affect your view on relationships, and why you're so much better off letting go of the idea of perfection.

Does the Bible speak about a believer having a soul mate?

Is there a specific person that God has for each one of us?

Is it biblical to have a soul mate?

You know how the movies and books go, they often describe how a man and woman magically find each other out of all of the billions of people in the world, and they instantly know that they were destined for each other.

Sparks fly. Fireworks erupt. The world stands still.

They know that they are meant to be soul mates and that they will complete each other and fulfill each other like no one else ever could. They just know they will be completely perfect for each other. Together, they will have unending bliss in this lifetime. They will feel totally in love every moment of every day. Infatuation will never end for them.

They won't even have to work at nurturing the romance. It just magically happens without effort or problems.

Is there anything in the Bible that indicates that this is true? No, there is nothing in the Bible that reveals we are destined to *marry a specific person* and no other. Some Old Testament saints had prearranged marriages that were the will of God but these were isolated cases and for particular circumstances and specific purposes and we cannot extrapolate or take these examples as something that God will do for us.

It is very possible to marry the wrong person. For one thing, believers are commanded to not marry outside of the faith...that is they should not marry an unbeliever because God has said that we are not to be unequally yoked (2 Cor. 6). Many have never followed this godly advice and have ended up in a marriage that God never intended for them to be in and heartaches resulted. No marriage is always better than a bad marriage but once a couple is joined, either believers or a Christian with a non-Christian, they are commanded to stay in that marriage by grace and through the love of Christ Jesus.

Chapter Four



UNDERSTANDING SOUL MATE

THE SOULMATE CONCEPT ranges everywhere from optimal reality to an impossible ideal. That's why we need to define what one is.

Dictionary.com defines a soulmate as “*a person with whom one has a strong affinity, shared values and tastes, and often a romantic bond*”. So in other words, a soulmate is someone you're compatible with.

The common idea of a “*soul mate*” is that for every person, there is another person who is a “*perfect fit*,” and if you marry anyone other than this soul mate, you will never be happy in this life. But does the Bible say anything about soul mates? Fantastic and romantic as it is, having a soul mate is not a biblical idea.

For centuries, people have been using the soul mate idea as grounds to break up or even divorce. A person becomes unhappy in a relationship, then claims they are obviously not with “*the one*” and should therefore break up. At that point, they feel they can justify the search for their “*true*” soul mate. Sorry, people, but that's nothing more than an excuse—a pretty blatantly unbiblical one, too.

Sometimes, the idea of a soul mate confuses and delays a single person from committing to marriage. Sometimes, the idea of a soulmate provides an excuse to someone married to seek divorce. Both views are flawed.

I knew of a Christian Sister who believed that a particular Brother in the Church is her soul mate as she claimed “*God reveal it to me in a vision several times*”. On the side of the Brother, he has no desire for her. She tried all she could for the Brother to accept her but to no avail. She went to the extent of using their Pastor and other church elders. Finally, the Brother ended up marrying another Lady from a different denomination. Six years down the line, the Sister was still praying and trusting God for a miracle that will bring her soul mate back to her. Even though he was married and with three kids, she was still waiting for him. Isn't that satanic?

The notion of a "*soul mate*" has its roots in the philosophy of Plato, not the Bible. Plato surmised that a prototypical human being was somehow split in two, resulting in our desperate search for the one person who can complete us.

The danger in this line of thinking (*in addition to its idolatrous nature*) resides in the question of how anyone can determine that someone is, in fact, his or her "*soul mate*." Most often, confirmation is based on emotional electricity, yet we all know how fickle emotions can be. Additionally, does it sound even remotely like God to let our future happiness depend on us finding "*one person*" out of millions of options? Can we possibly know enough in our twenties to figure this out?

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

When it comes to relationships, scripture is all about making good choices and carefully evaluating potential mates. The truth is that the Bible does not contain any passages that indicate that “*the one*,”—your soul mate—exists at all, and although God may have specifically created Adam and Eve for one another in the beginning, we live in a fallen world in which no individual, or relationship, is perfect.

So what, then, does the Bible have to say about finding love?

Mark 10:11-12 tells us who is Biblically eligible for marriage. The book of Proverbs 31:16, a wealth of relationship knowledge, has us looking for responsible mates, and ones who know how to handle their money. Proverbs 31:30 informs us that godliness is superior to beauty or a handsome face. Proverbs 17:19 tells us to shy away from those who quarrel, and Proverbs 12:18 has us avoiding those with sharp tongues. Finally, Proverbs 31:10-31 directs us toward the virtuous, for their price is “*far above rubies*”.

If each of us had a predestined soul mate, would the Bible feature so many passages that help us to evaluate potential romantic partners? No—scripture is clear, telling us that we must make wise choices and use our discernment to find a mate that is both Godly and that suits us as unique individuals.

So if the idea of a soul mate isn’t scriptural, where does it come from?

Chapter Five



THE ORIGIN OF SOUL MATE

TEN YEARS AGO, after a hard breakup, I decided to investigate. As a scholar of Marriage and Family Life, who was trained in the history of ideas, I was interested in connecting the various iterations of the soul mate ideal through time.

One early use of the word “*soul mate*” comes from the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge in a letter from 1822: “*To be happy in Married Life ... you must have a Soul-mate.*”

For Coleridge, a successful marriage needed to be about more than economic or social compatibility. It required a spiritual connection.

Several centuries before Coleridge, the Greek philosopher Plato, wrote about the reasons behind the human yearning for a soulmate. In his writing, the *Symposium*, he taught that men and women were made in one body and were separated by the gods. The Greek myth defined humans as having two faces, four arms, four legs, and possessed incredible strength. But the Greek god Zeus feared humans had too much power and strength. He elected to slice every human being in half--thus sentencing us to roam the earth our entire lives in search of our missing half--our soulmate.

Paul warns us in Colossians 2:8 and 9 about hollow and deceptive philosophy.

The idea that there is a person out there (*better half, perfect match, soul mate, twin flame*) who can make each of us “*happy and complete*” is constantly conveyed through portrayals in films, books, magazines, and television.

IT IS A MYTH

By tracing the soulmate ideal to these religious sources it's possible to gain a fresh perspective on its power and function in an age when more people identify as having no religious affiliation.

The soul mate myth informs the reality show “*The Bachelor*,” where young women wait for the attention of one chosen “*bachelor*” in hopes of finding true love. It is the same in the film adaptation of Nicholas Spark's novel “*The Notebook*,” which follows the path of two lovers separated at various times by war, family, and illness.

And then there are the Dating Site users – wading through an excess of possible romantic partners, perhaps hoping that their only will eventually make them whole and happy.

In light of the myth's history, it's not surprising that even at a time when fewer people may be turning to God, they are still looking for their one true soulmate.

I want us to see that the bond of marriage is grounded in the covenant we made - not in discovering the ideal soul-mate.

NO HUMAN CAN COMPLETE YOU

This is the Principles of marriage, *“if you are not complete as a single before marriage, don't expect to be complete in him after marriage”*.

The word “*Complete*” is from Greek *artios*, from the root *aro*, “*to join*”, in sense of “*accurately fitted for; it expresses the final and entire attainment of what is treated, leaving nothing beyond to be desired or hoped for*”. Most married people have never been complete before marriage, which is why their marriages are failing.

Do not marry a “*better half*”, but marry a “*complete male or female*”.

Genesis 1:27-28 says, “*So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them*”.

According to the above verse, God created a complete being – male and female. But the world has deceived us and taught us that we are only half and our partner is the other half. As a result of this misconception, we expect the other person to come in and complete us.

If you are not complete as an individual before marriage, you will struggle to find completion and fulfillment in marriage. Marriage does not bring you completion but makes two complete male and female, completely whole (*as One Flesh*). My wife is not my *better half*. See heaven's mathematics is not the same as earthly mathematics. $1+1+1=1$ in heaven mathematics, The Father + The Son + Holy Spirit = One God. The Father complete as an individual and so are the Son

and the Holy Spirit yet they come together to form ONE complete BEING. This should be the same with MARRIAGE, a whole MAN should meet a whole WOMAN and come together and become one WHOLE BEING.

This is the type of marriage that can stand the test of time, not a quest for a soul mate or perfect match.

The problem is that this view makes us half persons. If each woman constantly searches for the man who will "*complete*" her, she can never be complete. Worse, she cannot live for Christ. I believe this misplaced search for a soul mate is counterproductive to the real work of building healthy lasting marriages. Why? because it leads to disillusionment when we find that marriage, by nature, is two self-absorbed people who are bound primarily by a covenant.

Rather than following the themes of Plato's dramatic story of *soul mates* and *better half*, follow the Word of God and dedicate yourself to the mate you've carefully chosen. The Bible warns us against thinking of love as a mere emotion—it's far more than that. It's a willingness to work for the good of another, to see past their faults, and to be selfless, loving our mates "*just as Christ loved the church*".

In that light, it is better to seek out someone with a common faith, character, and values- and even then there can be tension. When you discover you are left with an unsatisfactory partner then that is when the real work of building a relationship begins.

Chapter Six



THE PERFECT MATCH SYNDROME

THE “*PERFECT MATCH*” perpetrated by movies, magazines, and online dating sites are the *wisdom of men* and the *doctrine of demons*.

In a biblical worldview, there is no “*one right choice*” for marriage, but rather, there are “*wise and foolish choices*”. We are encouraged to use wisdom given by the Spirit of God, not human wisdom and destiny, as our guide.

1 Cor. 2: 12-13 says, “*Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things that are freely given to us by God. ¹³ And we speak about these things, not with words taught us by HUMAN WISDOM, but with those taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people*”.

The idea of a “*soul mate*” or “*the perfect match*” is worldly wisdom, not Biblical. It is dangerous because it encourages a few negative things amongst others:

- Selfishness.
- The idea of being made whole (*complete*) by someone else.
- The idea that such relationships will embody little to no conflict or need for effort.

The selfishness point has already been elaborated on in the other answers above. The 2nd point is another misconception perhaps perpetuated by the famous movie line, "*You complete me.*" We should be healthy and complete in our relationship with Christ (*for He is all we need, and no other imperfect & sinful person can save us/make us new/make us whole by their love alone; only Christ's love is fully pure and has done all the aforementioned for us since we could not do it ourselves. Hence why he came*). before we seek someone to join us on our journey in the way of Christ.

Colossian 2: 10 says, "*And all of you are complete in him (Christ)*". No man or woman can complete you in this life. This is proof that "*no perfect match*" exists.

If you're seeking someone to "*complete you*" and be your "*soul mate*" or "*perfect match*" then where is your soul headed if it's not already connecting itself to Christ? As for the 3rd point, because we are sinful and our love isn't fully pure, we have to work through our imperfections to make things work.

When you marry someone, you become ONE FLESH and not SOUL MATE. A man will leave his father and mother and will be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. It is possible to feel that you have married the wrong person or perhaps that you married someone who God did not desire for you to marry, but in this instance, God is still in control. He can change a person by changing their heart and mind. God can take an unhappy individual or two unhappy people and mold them into a happily married couple

well suited for one another. A husband and wife are soul lovers; the two are becoming or have become one flesh.

Nowhere in the Bible is there a scripture that describes God creating someone with the sole intent of being a good match for someone else. We were created for so much more than that!

When it comes to the Bible, God did not place any two people on this Earth for the sole purpose of being together. Nobody's fate will ever have meshed with our own – we are all on separate life paths. Christian's duties to God have not been shared with anyone but themselves.

But, this isn't to say that God is not particular about who he has us marry. We know that:

- God cares about us deeply enough to know all the hairs on our head (Luke 12:7),
- Carries out his will as he pleases (Psalm 135:6), and
- Works for our good through all things (Romans 8:28).

So, it's pretty safe to say that God is intimately involved in who we spend the rest of our life with.

All the intimacy, love, and commitment that people want out of a soulmate can be found within a godly marriage—but not because everything is perfect and easy and you go riding off into the sunset. But because of an OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD.

Ephesians 5:22-33 and Colossians 3:18-21 are great starting points to understanding what a godly marriage should look like.

It is possible to “*find the one your soul loves*” as Song of Solomon 3:4 reminds us—but not in an idolatrous SOUL MATE kind of way. Instead, it’s in a healthy, godly way.

THE QUEST FOR PERFECTION HURTS MARRIAGES

The belief in Plato’s perfect soul mate—one with whom all interaction is effortless—destroys relationships.

Because we live in a fallen world, no human being is perfect. Every relationship takes work to function. Nothing is effortless. Ever.

The belief that there is one, and only one Perfect Mate out there creates an unrealistic expectation that no human being could ever meet. This is harmful, especially for new Christians, because if their marriages aren’t simply brimming with effortless communication, high romance, and satisfying sex, they may begin to question whether or not they’re with “*the one*”.

After questioning, they may just go in search of this mythic lover, abandoning their spouse when the going gets tough rather than seeking to work things out. They may be tempted and fall when someone comes along who seems to understand them better. This is incredibly unfair for your partner.

So do not follow the “*hollow and deceptive philosophy*” that Paul warns of us in Colossians 2: 8-9, but instead, realize that God is the only being who truly completes you. He is the only one who could ever be our “*soul mate*,” perfect for us in every way. When it comes to humans, looking for perfection will only end in heartbreak for both parties.

Instead, work at your marriage, and be willing, Ephesians reads, to lay down your life for your spouse. That means letting go of your quest for perfection. It means work.

As J.R.R. Tolkien once wrote, in a letter to his son, “*No man, however truly he loved his betrothed and bride as a young man has lived faithful to her as a wife in mind and body without deliberate conscious exercise of the will, without self-denial.*”

When we free ourselves of the burden and stress of finding that *one person in billions*, we realize that everyone has the potential to be our special someone.

That is a beautiful epiphany. Here’s why:

“*Whether you’re deep within the courting process or married, love is a daily choice. Out of all the people in the world, you’ve chosen one, and they have chosen you, despite your imperfections, despite other possibilities. Just as God doesn’t have to love us, but chooses to, we do the same for one another*”.

That’s far more romantic a notion than a supernaturally easy relationship.

One of the truths of human nature is that we value that which we work the hardest for. When we're focused on ourselves, on the potential that a soul mate has to fulfill us, we're saying that we want something without giving anything. We don't want to work.

Instead of looking for a soul mate, look to create your ideal mate—the one person to whom you are dedicated, no matter what temptation comes your way. This is the example God gives us in His relationship with us. This is the foundation for the strongest marriages.

So carefully choose your love based on Biblical principles, and once you've established a healthy relationship, stick with it. There's much more of the divine in the love of a fallen, broken human being than there is in the fruitless pursuit of the mythical soul mate.

Chapter Seven



HOLLYWOOD PROPAGANDA

HOLLYWOOD IS FAMOUS for putting together romantic stories of people in often dysfunctional relationships who consider each other to be soul mates. Of course, what they depict is two people with hot-and-heavy chemistry (read: strong sexual attraction) and nothing else. Where is the portrayal of the shared values? Mind you, “*values*” are not interests! Even worse, these stories ride on the fact that “*chemistry*” alone (*or as they, sometimes, term it, “animal attraction”*) is enough to make two people a *perfect match*.

What’s dangerous is the fact that many times, chemistry is seasonal. On the days’ real-life couples argue and disagree, it’s often not the chemistry that keeps them together – it’s the commitment! It’s been proven that people, especially women, who watch too many Hollywood romance stories are dissatisfied with their own lives and relationships. No surprise there!

Though many times, we watch movies to dream, imagine and escape our realities, it can become too easy to buy into relationship lies and deceptions. The fact that two people are soul mates, who believe that they belong together, doesn’t mean that their relationship is suddenly a magical one in which they never have to work again. Instead, it’s the

opposite. Yes, their love and shared values are the foundation of their relationship, but it is that same love that keeps them working at it and consistently committed during life's ups and downs and "chemistry-free" days (or weeks or even months).

Don't destroy your destiny by basing your love on chemistry. In God's standard, true love is based on Covenant and Commitment. Don't let lies and deception of soul mate leave you eternally relationally dissatisfied!

Find someone you can love, then enter into a covenant of love with each other and be committed to that covenant. That's the secret to lasting relationships and marriage.

Apart from them been fictitious, they are demonic. The majority of the actors are members of the church of Satan, New Age Order, and other fraternities. In most of the movies, they portrait the symbols of Baphomet, Satanism, and Rosicrucian. They used what is called a "*mind control strategy*" to manipulate the masses and deceive us. We have to be very watchful and prayerful.

Buying into the "*soul mate*" ideal portrayed in Hollywood, clouds people's expectations in relationships and marriage. Finding or Becoming a life partner is a process of learning about each other, learning from each other, and growing together by grace! Arriving at a strong place of comfort and trust takes effort, not just the "*magic*" of finding a soulmate. Through communication, collaboration, and constructive conflict resolution, you can build and sustain happy and fulfilling relationships despite not being custom-built for each other from the outset. Which no one is.

Chapter Eight



SOUL MATE IS NOT BIBLICAL

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING, even our future spouse. He knows our past, present, and future. He is not limited by TIME as we humans are. Because He does know the future, He certainly knows who our future spouse will be. This does not mean that He has pre-destined them, just He already knows who they will be.

I know of no scripture that states that God directly selects our mate for us. He is interested in everything in our lives, but there is so much in life that is up to us to do. However, He is Sovereign and at times He chooses to be directly involved in our lives, including guiding us to a mate. In most cases, I do not believe that God has chosen a '*soul mate*' for each of us. God is more interested in the principles used in our lives that honor Him and bring us closer to Him. The '*action*' on these principles is our responsibility. Could be a match made in heaven?

Each party coming into a marriage enters with their imperfections. I believe it is another area in our lives where God is honored with the commitment to marriage and the faithfulness to the marriage. God states over and over in the scripture that He loves marriage and desires to be a partner in it.

Is a soul mate pre-destined by God? Is there a person who can completely fulfill us, never disappoint us, give us total security, peace, joy, eternal happiness, and perfection?

Even if we try to spiritualize destiny by calling it “*God’s will*,” there’s no evidence in the Bible that we’re meant to fall for one specific soul mate. We’re able to marry whomever we wish, as long as we’re equally matched with another person who follows Jesus (1 Corinthians 7:39).

The only “*one*” God seems to be concerned with is when a man and a woman marry; they become each other’s “*one*.” God doesn’t require us to find our soul mates to become complete humans; He shows us the value of keeping together what He’s brought together (Matthew 19:4-6).

The truth is, there is no perfect human

No completely flawless human soul mate will never hurt us, always completely understand us as Hollywood portrays, and who can meet our deepest spiritual and emotional needs every second of every day forever.

Rom. 3:23 “*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*”.

If we try to put a man on the throne of our hearts like this, we are making him into an idol. The problem with idolatry is, it always destroys us and it always destroys the relationship we have with the person we idolize. (*Another way of describing this kind of relationship would be “codependent.”*)

Ps. 118:8 “*It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man*”.

Thus says the Lord: “*Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord...*” Jer. 17:5-6

Once we marry a man or woman, that person is to be our spouse for life. We are to work on that relationship and nurture it out of love and honor for God and the marriage covenant and our spouse.

Marriage is a good gift. It is a blessing. God intends for each marriage to portray a living picture of the gospel (Eph. 5:22-33).

But marriage is also hard without the *Grace of Life*, 1 Pet. 3:7. There are difficulties. This doesn’t mean we abandon our marriage covenant.

But there is a perfect God who can fulfill us.

What we need is Jesus. We need the perfect Creator of the universe, the Prince of Peace, the Lord of lords, the Great Physician, the Good Shepherd, the Heavenly Bride Groom. He is the only one who can meet our deepest spiritual needs all the time. He is the only one who will never fail us, disappoint us, or leave us.

If we have Him, we have the Greatest Treasure in all the universe! With Him, all things (*including our marriage*) become easy for us. Prov. 3:5-6; Jer. 17:7-8; Jer. 2:13; Matt. 22:36-40

In Him, we truly can have absolute security, peace, joy, contentment, fulfillment, purpose, and our identity.

THE CHALLENGE

Here is the problem with the world's soul mate idea.

When we have a mindset that a person can take the place of all that only Jesus can do for us when we depend on a human being to be our soul mate, this is what happens:

We marry a person we idolize, with all these unrealistic expectations, and then realize that he or she is not perfect. Even if he or she is a strong Christian, they sin and stumbles at times. And we are shocked and appalled. We begin to resent him and disrespect him.

We assume that we married the wrong person and we need to divorce them and find our real soul mate so we can be happy. We are angry at God for allowing us to marry a spouse who is not the soul mate we wanted more than anything.

With the soul mate mindset, our primary hope is in a flawed human being, not in Christ.

Our goal is our momentary happiness (*which is one of the greatest idols in our culture - selfishness*) rather than holiness or exalting Jesus above all and seeking His glory above everything else.

The marriage covenant and God's commands for us as believers and as spouses become secondary to our feelings and desire for Hollywood-style romance.

I believe this kind of soul mate concept is very dangerous to our marriages.

In reality, any Christian man we marry is not going to be perfect. And any Christian woman a man marries is flawed, as well. That includes us! We will have plenty of opportunities to give and receive grace, forgiveness, mercy, and unconditional love and respect. We all have a steep learning curve in marriage. And we all need the power and wisdom of God's Spirit to build a strong, godly marriage.

What should happen when we realize our spouse is not perfect, is—it should remind us that only Jesus can truly meet our every spiritual need. And it should remind us of our sin and how much we are completely dependent on Christ because, on our own, none of us have any good in us. And it should also make us remember that the only one we can completely trust to be faithful all the time is Jesus.

Chapter Nine



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

IS THERE ONLY ONE man for you out there? One specific man, that you have to find among the billions of others?

Well, for Adam and Eve, there was only one potential spouse for them. It was pretty obvious who God's will was for them to marry!

And for Eleazer, who was looking for a wife for Abraham's son, Isaac, he did pray for God to show him the wife He wanted for Isaac and God answered his prayer. (*Although, Rebecca was certainly not perfect.*) We can certainly pray for God to lead us to a godly spouse.

But for us as followers of Christ, what are the qualifications we need to have for choosing a spouse?

1 Cor. 7:39 "*A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord*".

I Cor. 6:14 "*Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common?*"

So really, the main thing is, we are to choose someone who is committed to living for Jesus. The rest is pretty much up to us.

In biblical times, most marriages were arranged. Sometimes the spouses didn't even meet before the wedding. Or they were betrothed from infancy. There was no dating like we know in our culture.

Of course, for those who are already married to an unbeliever, God's will is for them to stay with that spouse if possible and seek to influence the other one for Christ.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE NOT SAY?

There are no verses that say things like:

“Seek the one true love that God has for you among all of the other people in the world. Don't marry anyone but him. If you marry some other Christian man, you are doomed to misery forever”.

“There is only one man for you that is perfect for you. Pray for God to help you find him. If you can't find him, God can't do anything of value with your life”.

“If you realize you married someone who is not perfect for you, divorce him and search the world for your real God-given soul mate so that you can be happy”.

God's will is for us, as Christians, is for us to remain single and completely devoted to Christ or for us to marry a believing husband or wife and remain completely devoted to Christ and faithful to our marriage covenant.

Did you know that we will not be married to our human spouse in heaven? Marriage is temporary for this lifetime. In heaven, all of the members of the Body of Christ make up the Bride of Christ and Jesus is the Bride Groom. We will celebrate the marriage supper of the Lamb together and be one in Spirit eternally together with Jesus. Earthly marriage is just a temporary picture that foreshadows heaven.

Again, only Jesus can promise happily ever after in heaven. There is no 100% happily ever after on earth. Scripture promises that on earth, and in earthly marriage, there will be trials.

1 Cor. 6:28 says, *“those who marry will face many troubles in this life”*.

But here is our hope in Jesus:

John 16:33 *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

With the above considerations, allow me to share how I think it is at work with God. God is our Father and has provided the way to be in *constant* contact with Him through the Holy Spirit. Paul states in Romans 12:12 and Colossians 4:2 that we are to be constantly in prayer. This means ‘*constantly*’ in touch with His Spirit so that He can guide us. Thus, I suggest that He does not have a Soul Mate for us (*in advance*) but He desires to guide us to one that will honor Him as well as you.

I do not believe that this is pre-destination, just foreknowledge.

What if the spouse dies, or there is a divorce? The scripture clearly states that God wants widows who are young to marry again (1 Titus 5:14). I further believe that if one is Biblically divorced they can remarry with God's blessings. *(Unfaithfulness of a spouse is one option for divorce. If that one decides to divorce AND becomes remarried, then I believe the other party is released to CONSIDER remarriage WHEN God heals them and releases them to do so.)*

If they are released to be remarried, then obviously there is more than one person in their lives for them.

Soulmates don't exist. Period. The *Satanic Soulmate Doctrine* has spread throughout churches seemingly undetected. It's because Satan is using camouflage to make his deceptions appear to be of God. Satan and his demons are responsible for starting the soulmate doctrine. I recently discovered that the soulmate doctrine doesn't line up with God's Word. I seek to put to silence this Satanic deception. Please read 1st Timothy 5:14...The apostle Paul says in this verse that widows under the age of 60 should remarry. That verse is proof that soulmates don't exist because nobody could ever remarry if God created a "*soul mate*" or "*specific person*" for each of us. Even I believed the soul mate doctrine until I realized it wasn't based on scripture. The soul mate doctrine is the work of Satan and his demons. Satan is using camouflage to make us think that his ways are of God. Indeed, the soul mate

doctrine seems harmless at first. However, nothing could be farther from the truth. Satan came up with this soulmate idea because he knew it would deceive many people...his goal is to destroy family...and even prevent it. Satan is using the soulmate doctrine to make people think they can't be with someone unless they have some supernatural approval from God. However, I've never read nor heard of any verse in God's Word that says to ask for such approval. What I'm trying to say is this *"find a decent Christian person that desires to be married and stop searching for a soulmate that doesn't even exist"*.

Anyone who still believes in soulmates after reading this is just being ignorant of the truth and fulfilling what 1st Timothy chapter 4:1 says...*"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons"*

Rejoice in the Lord and let Him provide what you do not.

Finally, do not get hung up on whether or not God has a soul mate predestined for you. Whether He does or not, He desires to lead you every moment of every day toward good and healthy decisions – ones that honor Him and bless you. Focus on Him and rejoice in what you do have and let Him provide what you do not.

Chapter Ten



THE CHOICE OF LOVE

WHEN WE ASSUME that God is speaking to us individually, apart from his word, we elevate ourselves to the status of a prophet. When we call our thoughts God's words, we are thinking too highly of ourselves and not nearly highly enough of God.

John Piper says, “*God gives us great freedom in choosing whom we’ll marry.*”

God gives us great freedom in choosing whom we’ll marry. So, marvel at the fact that God has spoken to us through sending his beloved Son, accept that word as enough for you, and then wisely choose whom you will marry according to the principle of the word.

Question: If there’s only one true love for you out of the billions of people living on planet Earth right now, what happens if you make the wrong choice? What if Harry marries Angela when he was supposed to marry Kisha? Well, Kisha’s life is messed up because now she has to marry Damien, who is the wrong guy. Damien was supposed to marry Rachel, who was supposed to marry Rick. But now, everybody’s fate is destroyed. The destiny of the entire human race is thrown off course!

The wrong couples are having babies! What if the baby who is supposed to cure cancer is never born because Harry didn't marry "*The One*"? Sounds ridiculous doesn't it? But that's what happens when we hold on to myths like fate, destiny, and "the one true love." It sounds romantic and it makes a good love story, but it doesn't make much sense.

The downside to this myth is that it opens the door to fear of loss, encourages competition (among single women especially), paralyzes many singles in the courting process who don't know if they're choosing the right person because they didn't hear a word from God, and it can also create resentment in a marriage ("*I married the wrong person!*" *many people say*).

Hanging on to this myth can also cripple those who have lost love through death or divorce and who feel as though they'll never love again.

But what about God's will?

Here's a truth that will set you free: You come to know God's will by understanding His ways. I believe God is less concerned about who you marry than He is about how you get married. In other words, do you do it God's way?

Instead of seeking Him for "*the ONE*," seek to know the way He wants us to relate to one another. Ask God for wisdom and discernment so you can make the best choice for your life.

The love of your life is waiting for you to create it. You can have the romance of your dreams but you have to stop waiting passively for it and go after it!

GOD WOULDN'T CONTROL OUR CHOICE OF LOVE

You've probably heard Christians talk about how you should "*wait for the spouse God has for you*" or "*seek God's will*" in your love life. The idea of letting God choose who you marry and guide you to that person is popular among Christians.

This is often because (1) Christians want to obey God's will in their lives or (2) believe that God knows the best possible match for them.

However, 1 Corinthians 7 paints a different picture. Instead of teaching us to expect God to control our love lives, the chapter reveals that God gives us the freedom to choose if we marry and, thus, whom we marry. It might seem odd to us that God would want us to make such big decisions rather than yield them to Him. Understanding why God gives us the choice becomes easier when we look through the lens of the following three reasons:

#1 – God Won't Control Our Choice Because Love Must Be Free.

When I say "*free*," I don't mean "*without cost*." I mean "*not enslaved*." Love, by its nature, must be free or it's not love. Maybe you've heard the saying that you shouldn't take a robot to the prom because she doesn't love you. It means that anyone who's forced to love you doesn't love you. You

can't know if a person loves you unless he or she has the option not to.

If it were God's will for us to marry a particular person, refusing would be disobedience. We would have to marry that person to obey God. We would be accepting the person because we were required to because we had no other option. That would eliminate the opportunity to love freely and genuinely. But God wants us to love freely and genuinely. That's why God gives us the freedom to choose if we marry and whom we marry. That freedom gives us space in which to love.

#2 – God Won't Control Our Choice Because Love Is Better Than Matching.

Finding the right match is a popular idea in modern America. Many people think a successful marriage is made by finding the right match and that a failing marriage means the match was bad. But this is a backward way of thinking. Even the best of matches will experience conflict eventually, and even the best of matches can be ruined if the conflict isn't handled well.

Even we Christians fall into the trap of thinking too much of matching. Even worse, we bring God into it. Some Christians want God to pick their spouse because they think He, with His infinite knowledge, knows who the absolute best match is. It's as though we want God to be our supernatural matching algorithm.

But God wants us to love rather than put our stock in matching. Matching is certainly important, but a more poorly matched couple that loves will do better than a well-matched couple that doesn't love. God wants us to choose to love the person we commit to in marriage rather than worry about how well we're matched. Regardless of how good a match we marry, God is present, teaching encouraging us to love selflessly.

#3 – God Won't Control Our Choice Because to Love Is to Be Like God.

God didn't have to choose us. He didn't have to love us. He was free to reject us. He loved us anyway because God is love. When God invites us to love others, He's inviting us to live that highest virtue that is essential to His nature. He's inviting us to become more like Him, loving our spouse with the same constant selflessness with which He loves us.

When we imagine marrying someone God has picked for us, we often imagine a divinely blissful marriage marked by much joy and little trouble. While that seems appealing, it's not what God wants us to live out. He calls us to live out the limitless love that is constant even when everything is falling apart. It's the love that says, *"I love you. I've chosen you. I'm never leaving you, come hell or high water."* God is calling us to love our spouse the way He loves us.

Often, we want God to choose our spouse for us because that seems safer or easier than choosing to love someone without knowing how difficult or painful that will be. But

God hasn't called us to choose what's safe or easy. He's called us to love Him and love others. One big way that happens is in freely choosing to commit to someone in marriage. This doesn't mean God abandon us to make our own choice without any help from Him. Like any good father, God will always give us guidance and counsel in making a wise choice of a spouse. But God doesn't want to control our love lives. Instead, He wants to invite us to take love's adventure in committing to love someone for a lifetime. In doing so, we take the same adventure of love that He took when He chose to commit to loving us.

How can I know if I'm with the right person? Is it possible to marry the wrong person?

If we listen to God and seek His direction for our lives, He promises to direct us: "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight*" (Proverbs 3:5-6). What happens if you don't trust in God's ways and if you decide to choose what's best instead of letting God direct you? Well, you leave yourself open to stray off in the wrong direction. In a time of disobedience toward God, and if we aren't taking His guidance to heart, then yes, it's possible to marry someone God did not desire you to marry.

However, even in that case, God is still in control and knows the best next steps. Nothing we do can mess up God's sovereign will. He can take any two people, no matter how mismatched, and mold them into two people who are perfect

for each other. That's how much He loves us and shows how powerful He is!

If you maintain a close friendship with God, listen to His leading, and obey Him, He will lead and guide you. If you are truly trying to follow His will for your life and His desire is for you to marry, God will lead you to the right person.

A spouse should certainly complement us and be a good fit. And clearly, we do not want to marry someone for whom we do not have genuine love and affection. Marriage is meant to be a joyous and fruitful bond in which the spouses are better together than apart. But such a relationship is often not what is thought of when people refer to soulmates.



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