

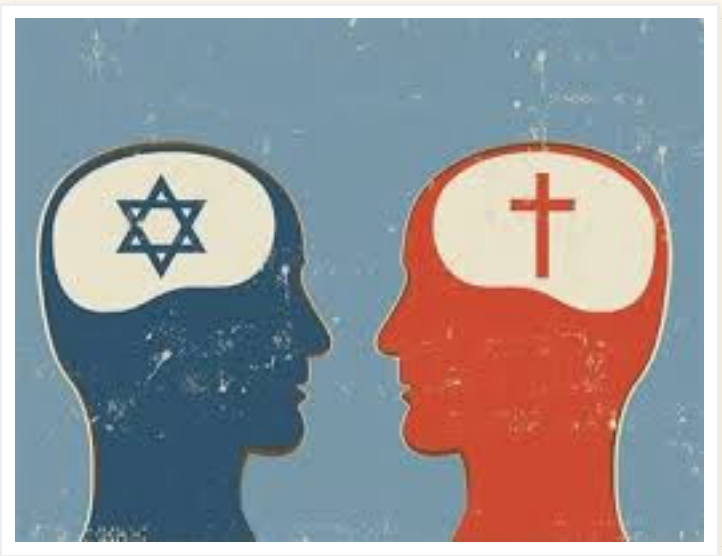
# Growing up with two religions

Friday, December 4, 2015

## Interview

Hi everyone! Today my post is about a couple that was engaged and got married 3 years ago. They are a fairly new interfaith couple. I know the wife because she is my best friend’s older sister. I called her to ask her 2 questions for my blog. She is Jewish and he is Catholic.

Note: I only refrained in asking two questions because I know this topic can become personal and I didn’t want to over do it with a lot of questions.



1. “Was planning the wedding hard due to having to make decisions about where the ceremony is going to be?”

1. Respondent: Yes it was stressful. Our parents actually started getting involved but ultimately we decided our ceremony would be non-secular. We both made this personal decision so that our families didn’t have tension at the wedding towards one another.

\*Side note: In both religions, Judaism and Roman Catholic, it is extremely important you get married at a church with a priest or at a synagogue with a rabbi.

2. “You guys recently had a baby boy, I heard there was some conflict in whether or not he should be circumcised, is this true?”

2. Respondent: Yes. My husband at the time was extremely against circumcision. My mom was getting involved. Finally, I just decided to let my husband have his way. We were too excited about welcoming home our baby to keep stressing out about the topic.”

\*Side note: For those of you who don’t know, Jewish families taking circumcision really seriously as well as Roman Catholics. The particular Catholic in this scenario was extremely against it.

Posted by **Emily Desouza** at 9:11 AM    No comments:

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Thursday, November 19, 2015

## Celebrities raised by interfaith parents

Hey everyone! This post is dedicated to reflecting upon a few celebrities who grew up in interfaith households. I found a really interesting article written by Nate Bloom on [www.interfaithfamily.com](http://www.interfaithfamily.com)

Bloom’s main idea in this article is to touch upon the interview that Jason Segel did with the *Philadelphian Jewish Exponent* newspaper. Terry Gross

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was the interviewer and is the current host of the radio program, *Fresh Air*. For those of you who don't know Jason Segel, he is a main character in the hit TV show, *How I Met Your Mother*, and he also played the main role in the movie *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*. Here is a little bit of background on Jason Segel:

- born and raised in Los Angeles, California
- Mother was a catholic
- Father was an attorney and jewish
- Raised Jewish but attended an Episcopalian-affiliated private school
- Had the height of 6'4 when he was just 12
- First casted as a co-star of Tv series, *Freaks & Geeks*

I want to show you all an excerpt of the interview. I chose this excerpt because it allows you to see the emotion Segel felt.

**Gross:** "So, what were some of the other adventurous aspects of being the only Jewish kid at a Catholic school--Catholic or Christian?"

**Segel:** "I think it was Episcopalian. I am not 100 percent sure what the differences are. I'll tell you what was really weird. Like I said, I felt sort out of place at this school."

**Gross:** "Maybe because you were?"

**Segel:** Yes, exactly. You see, my father is Jewish and my mother is Christian, but I was raised Jewish. So, I am at this school and they really don't like me very much there. And then after Christian school I would in the afternoons walk to Hebrew school and then at Hebrew school they would tell me I was not really Jewish because my mother is Christian. So, all of a sudden I'm like this young kid--I would have been happy to believe whatever--whoever would have been nice to me. You know? But it was this feeling of not really belonging or not really fitting in.

**Gross:** "The world's mainstream religions don't want you."

**Segel:** "Yeah, you know what occurred to me, it is funny that you say that, but what occurred to me was that this certainly isn't God. God doesn't want an 11 and 12-year-old kid to feel this way. You know. My belief in God is that God wants you. God wants you to believe in him, or it, whatever you would call it."

I think a lot of kids with interfaith parents can relate to his feelings. Middle school is already a hard and stressful transition so just imagine having to deal with other stressful factors such as religion. I also strongly believe with Segel when he states, "God doesn't want an 11 and 12 year-old kid to feel this way. You know. My belief in God is that God wants you." I believe that God doesn't judge anyone and is always wanting people to feel and be their best.

Additionally, the article goes on in stating other interfaith raised celebrities. Some of these celebrities include: Jack Black, Amanda Bynes, and Scarlett Johansson.



# Interfaith Myths

Hey everyone! Today I want to touch base on a few myths that a majority of people have in regards to raising interfaith kids. I found a great article on *Huffington Post Parents* by an author named Susan Katz Miller. Miller and her husband currently celebrate both Judaism and Christianity. She states, “To join this interfaith families movement, you do need a thick skin, skills in cross-cultural engagement and thoughtful explanations at the ready for critics.” (1). She also continues her article by mentioning a handful of myths that people have towards interfaith relationships and kids.


To begin with, the first and most recognized myth is “The kids will be confused.” I personally believe that religion itself can be confusing but if you are taught at a young age, you become more knowledgeable and accustomed. Miller conducted a survey for teens and young adults who were raised in interfaith communities, and the results were shocking. She found that 90 percent of these young adults claimed learning both Judaism and Christianity did not confuse them.






Additionally, when I first thought of this topic, I have to admit that this next myth popped up in my mind. Myth #2 is stated as the following: The kids will be stressed by choosing between parents. This is not true. It’s uncommon for a kid to grow up and choose to only respect/like their mother or father solely because of religion. However, when the kids do grow up and reach a certain age, most times they tend to choose to stick to only one religion. This does have potential to cause some strain in a relationship with parents but most parents are ultimately understanding and respect their son or daughter’s decision.


All in all, those were just a few of the myths mentioned in the article. If you have any questions please feel free to leave a comment. Also, to view the article, [click here](#) :)

Posted by Emily Desouza at 6:09 AM

No comments:





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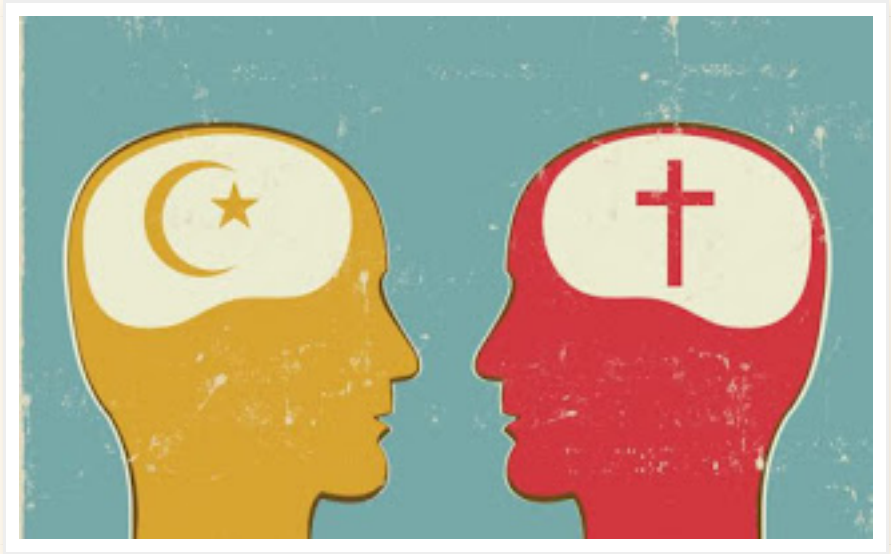
Tuesday, November 17, 2015

## A look into a childhood with two religions


Hi everyone! Just to clarify, I created this blog for my online religion class. I currently attend the Florida State University and am a senior. This blog is geared towards interfaith relationships and how they can potentially affect each other along with their children. What are some of the decisions a couple has to make before deciding to start a family? How do you decide which religion your child or children follow? Will your household always be chaotic? Will you constantly argue with one another? These are just a few questions that pop into my mind when thinking about this topic. My goal is to cover these topics and find some articles or types of research based on this topic as well.






To begin with, I used to assume the majority of interfaith couples would have a negative experience with raising kids together. However, I have found an article written by Audrey Tan-Zubiri titled, "Yes, you can happily raise kids in a two-religion home."


Her article goes into detail about couples that believe in different religions and how they live with it. Out of the five couples she writes about, I found a specific couple to be the most interesting. They are two lawyers named, Adel and Rowena Tamano. The husband, Adel, is a Muslim lawyer. According to the article, if a Muslim guy marries a woman who isn't Muslim, she must convert. In this particular marriage, the wife decided not to convert and remained Catholic. She claims that, “deep mutual respect, tolerance and love is required to overcome religious differences.” This is evidently true for this couple being that they have been married for 13 years. Additionally, they do have children and both agreed to raise them as Muslims. Adel states, "while our kids are raised in the Islamic faith, they are taught to respect their mother's Christian belief." There is no emotional distress towards their children.



If any of you readers have additional questions, please feel free to leave a comment and I will do my best to answer your questions! :)

Posted by **Emily Desouza** at **8:54 PM**    **No comments:**    

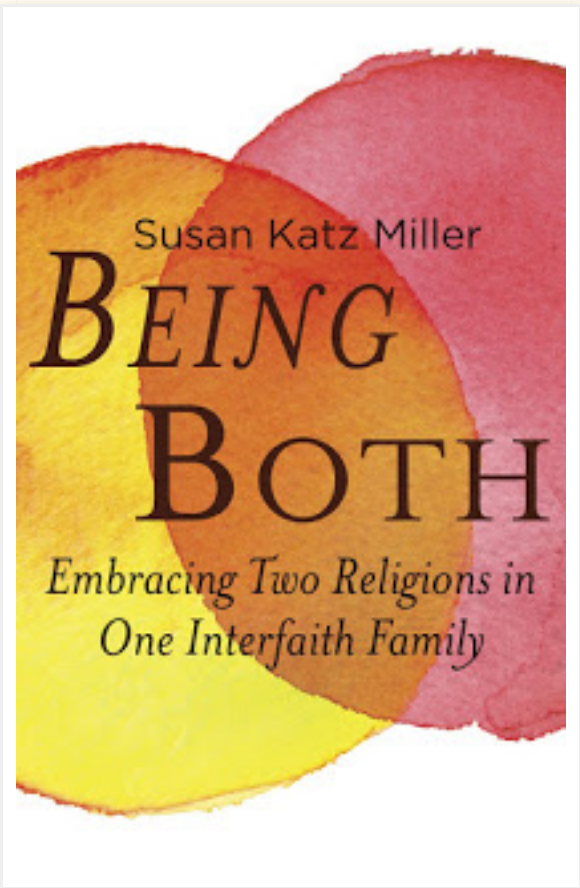


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Sunday, October 25, 2015

## Interfaith marriages

My first blog post will be a glimpse into my topic. I am choosing to explain what interfaith is and how it can negatively or positively affect a child who has to grow up with it. To begin with, interfaith marriage is when two partners who decide to get married profess to two different religions. Presently, Jewish-Christian interfaith marriages are the most popular. However, there are many other partners who celebrate religions other than those two mentioned.








I found an article on Time.com written by Susan Katz Miller, also author of the book, “*Being Both*”, that states, “According to a 2009 study by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, almost ¼ of all Americans attend religious services of more than one faith or denomination.” This signifies that interfaith is not something scare, it is trending. Ms. Miller conducted a study that surveyed parents who joined interfaith communities and put their kids in interfaith education programs. After analyzing her results, she came to the conclusion that following two religions can enrich and strengthen families and greatly benefit their children. She mentions a few reasons as to why she believes in this and they are the following: It promotes transparency about differences, it encourages family unity, it gives extended family equal weight, it sidesteps the matrilineality conflict, and it provides literacy in both religions.

[Click here for further details](#)

Although, there are positive aspects about interfaith marriages, there are also conflicting aspects as well. I will be conducting a mini-interview with my friend’s half

sister who grew up with parents that celebrated two different religions. Her mother is an Orthodox Jew and her father is Christian. They have strong contrary beliefs between each other. It will be posted within the next week or two.

Posted by **Emily Desouza** at **5:00 PM**    **No comments:**    



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