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interreligion.wordpress.com

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1. 2015

1.1 September

About (2015-09-29 18:22)

This is a blog created by an FSU student in REL1300, Introduction to World Religions in the Fall semester of 2015. In this blog you will find posts about interfaith marriages, something you may or may not be familiar with. In these posts you will see how different cultures either utilize or react to this concept of inter-religious (interfaith) marriages. There are many ways to go about the process of marriage, which is also discussed. Success in marriage heavily relies on the dedication of its partners, and faith has a huge role in that. Read more and see all of the different ways interfaith marriage is viewed, organized, reacted to and carried out. You will find links to stories relating to each topic, and statistics that further explain the importance of that posts' message. Things like arranged marriages, success stories, traditional, and non-traditional aspects to marriage are all outlined and discussed. Many families, even if practicing the same religion can have a totally different viewpoint on marriage, and in specifics, interfaith marriage which gives this topic a unique opportunity.

1.2 November

What is this idea of Inter-religious Marriage? (2015-11-02 18:50)

Inter-religious, or interfaith marriage is a marriage between two that have grown up and have been taught to follow different religions. This can be a Christian and a Jew, or a Muslim and a Hindu etc. The more exposure you have growing up to different religious groups, the more likely you won't find a problem marrying one that is different than your own.

Age has a lot to do with the tolerance on inter-faith marriages. The older you are getting married, the less likely you are to be concerned with what faith your partner follows. For example, Jews are the most commonly found to decide to marry outside faith, and Mormons are the least. People of Jewish faith generally marry at an older age, resulting in them being more tolerant, while Mormons tend to practice young nuptials, keeping faith at a higher priority.

Unfortunately, the success rate of inter-faith marriages isn't as high as those who decide to marry within their own. According to Pew Research Center, marriages within the same faith tend to be more durable, and an overall happier. Many use faith as an outlet for relationship "healing".

Things to Discuss when considering an out-of-faith partner:

1. What is your view on divorce

2. How do you want to raise your children
3. Are you tolerant of celebrating other religious holidays than your own?
4. What are your morals/values?

Check out this story to hear a woman's decision to marry outside of her faith: <https://onbeingboth.wordpress.com/category/interfaith-marriage-success-stories/>

Interfaith Issues in India (2015-11-07 15:27)

Marriage in India is not taken lightly. It is not only the joining of two people, but of two families. For this reason, the family has much to say in who the partner will be for their son or daughter. Many families will not even consider accepting their child's partner without a promise of conversion. However, even when the parents are accepting, the community may not be. There are many times banning from ancestral villages if someone in the family does not marry within their own faith.

There was an act passed in 1954, The Special Marriage Act, "under which a couple, no matter what their caste or religious background, can marry without any need for conversion"(Daniyal). There has been a lot of political uproar as a result of this act and many families do not accept it to be valid although it is in the political legal system. There are many provisions to the act that can be found in this article that demonstrate how difficult it truly is for two of different faiths to marry in India.

For a more real-life perspective, take a look at this intriguing article about Ashok Jain's experience in marrying outside of his faith and how it affected his family dynamic, and ultimately the structure for his entire life. He goes through his journey and is extremely clear on giving a first hand feeling. You will finish feeling like you lived the words he speaks.

Arranged vs. True Love (2015-11-22 16:49)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVrTupufEs>

The argument of whether an arranged marriage, or marriage based off true love is better than the other has been going on for as long as anyone still on Earth can remember. Although arranged marriages are thought of to be more common in countries like India, and Pakistan, there are cases throughout the world. It isn't necessarily a religious tradition rather than a family tradition. However, religion plays a big role in the process of an arranged marriage.

In an arranged marriage, when a woman is of age, her parents will go out and find possible husbands. There are

many factors that are taken into account when giving the daughter options. Things like reputation of the family, religion, values, family medical history and social status. There are two ways a family can go about an arranged marriage- traditional and forced. In a traditional arranged marriage, the daughter can decide they don't like the option and their parents will go out and find someone else, while in a forced, the daughter has no choice but to go with the only option her parents give her. Religion isn't even at question in an arranged marriage, because the only men the parents are going to propose their daughter marry are going to be the religion of choice.

A true love marriage, is just how it sounds. Two people who find each other whether it be through mutual friends, randomly, online, or through a match maker. This is what we all assume is the case when we meet couples who are getting married. In this case, it is less common that religion is going to be a factor deemed important. These are more common in the United States than arranged marriage, but there is no saying that they are more or less successful. When someone whose family traditionally would do an arranged marriage decides to go off on their own and marry someone of their own choice they are risking losing the support from their family. This also goes along with someone marrying for true love whose parents want them to marry within faith. This can extremely complicate a family dynamic.

In both cases, a happy ending can be in the couples' future. Even though it sounds HORRIBLE having our parent's pick potential partners for us (don't think I could ever do it!), they truly know what we need. They know what it is going to take to please us and to make us happy for a long time. They can see potential in people before we can and they always say that parents can decide whether the people we associate with are good for us or not before we can. CNN wrote this article telling a story about how an arranged marriage turned into true love. Check it out!

Going through Changes... (2015-11-24 19:03)

Although interfaith marriage has been around for years and years, it hasn't always been viewed in the same light. If you are to ask your parents and grandparents what faith they wanted the man or woman you were to marry would be, they would probably all have a different



answer.

Your grandmother and grandfather, the eldest of the generations most likely still alive in your family, (if they're not... go you!) are going to have the most conservative view on the topic. They are going to say there is no option other than to marry within your own faith. They'll probably also try to guilt you with a "do it for your grandmother!", and might continue on to say "but think about your future children! Don't you want them to be raised the same way as you?" They'll talk about all of the traditions you were raised participating in. For me it would be making latkes with my grandmother, and lighting the menorah every night together as a family while we light up the hanukkah bush and open our gifts.

Anyway, it is going to be of much more importance to them than you may even expect that you marry within your faith. This just has to do with the time that they grew up and the fact that it was almost unheard of to marry outside of your faith unless you were trying to rebel and distance yourself from your family. They will conclude that if you love your family and want everyone to be cohesive and feel as one then you will marry within faith.

The answer to the question from your parents are most likely going to be much different. Depending on where they grew up and how religious they grew up they might even have a different answer than each other. However, it is more likely that they are going to be less conservative, and more lenient on the topic of your future spouse's religious practice. Your dad might say "As long as he is good to my baby girl", and your mom "she better not break my baby boy's heart" and you would just laugh it off, continue with your day and not think twice again about who your parents want you to date.

However there is one thing to consider when it comes to the faith of your future spouse. How will your families "mesh" together if they are of different religious backgrounds. There won't be opportunity for as many family get-together's for the holidays because you will maybe go to your house for Hanukkah, and his for christmas. And although you will get to know your spouse's family and your spouse will come to know yours, there is a special sense of togetherness and "real" family when both full families are able to come together and celebrate something as special as your faith.

An article great for explaining the difference in how each generation views the topic of interfaith marriage is this one from the Huffington Post.

Will Your Marriage Survive? (2015-11-24 19:42)

"Till Death Do Us Part"

When two people get married they take a vow. and although these traditional vows may vary from one religion to the next, there is a commonality. The two at the alter are promising to be with one another until their last breath. They are saying that they don't want to be with anyone else for as long as they live and at that moment, they truly believe that.

Unfortunately we live in a society where we know that marriages don't always have that happy ending. There isn't always a 60th wedding anniversary, joined retirement plan or tombstone placement to rest together. As much as we'd love to believe on the day we wed that this will be the case, statistics say otherwise.

Now, throw an interfaith marriage into the mix. When a non religiously-compatible couple gets married they are at risk for higher divorce rates. They are more likely to lead an unhappy life and come up with many problems in day-to-day decisions. Things like whether they go to Church on Sunday or Temple on Friday night are small decisions that people don't normally think of when they are getting married. Even less of a priority in people's minds are their potential spouse's values. If one partner values faith more than the other this can cause potential arguments.

Interfaith marriages are also more likely to believe in divorce while "regular" marriages are not. When two have a spiritual connection like that of faith brings two people, they are probably going to use their religious connection to work on it. Whether it be marriage counseling with their pastor, or reaching out to God for guidance, it is something that brings them together and gives them commonality to work on things as a couple. Interfaith couples are led to hourly paid psychologists and marriage "specialists" who may not be able to come up with common ground for the couple.

Now, in my opinion, common faith can be an extreme benefit for a couple. Does that mean that you need to marry within faith to have a happy marriage? ABSOLUTELY NOT! But, it does mean you have a better chance at longevity and happiness. The worth of that is up to you to decide.....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBKtIUoiaFo>

gads

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