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marriageinreligion.wordpress.com

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1. 2015

1.1 September

About (2015-09-29 00:30)

Hello and welcome to this page!

I hope you are easily able to explore and find out more about religious leaders in various religions and if they are allowed to get married and why or why not. I hope you find it interesting, and also feel free to comment on any post!

1.2 October

Views of marriage for Christian priests (2015-10-28 02:31)

Christians believe that marriage is ultimately a gift from God and should never be taken for granted. Some Christian churches allow the clerical to be married and be ordained, while others do not. Below, I will go in depth about several Christian churches and their independent views on marriage. First, take a look at a video of Pope Francis discussing priests ability to get married here.

Starting with Catholicism, it is a belief that priests should never marry. Roman Catholics believe that priests serve in the place of Christ and since Christ was never married, they should not be either. They are to remain celibate and dedicate themselves fully to the Church. Christ makes it clear that we will not be married in heaven, so by priests remaining unmarried they stay the closest figures to Christ. However, Deacons in the Catholic faith are allowed to be married with children. This is because they have no intention of becoming a priest. The rules state that they must be married before becoming ordained a deacon, and if their wife happens to die, they can then become a priest. Deacons usually preach and say mass alongside the priest, but they also have steady jobs to support their family.

Protestant ministers or pastors are not always men and are allowed to marry. Pastors are encouraged to have children and also to carry out a sexual relationship with their spouse. Protestants do not believe that celibacy is being married to the Church, whereas Catholic priests do. Pastors are allowed to return to their home every night to be with their family, but still keep the church an everyday aspect of their lives.

Anglicanism is similar to Catholicism in the way that their clerical are called priests and also have deacons. The Deacons in the Anglican Church can be either women or men. Priests and Deacons are able to marry freely whenever they want during their ministry. Deacons also do not have to follow the rule of only marrying before they are ordained, they can marry whenever they see fit.

Check out this article on the relationship between Catholic and Anglican clerical here.

Marriage for rabbis in Judaism (2015-10-28 02:38)

For rabbis in the Jewish faith, they are not only allowed to be married but encouraged. One article explains it perfectly by saying, "Judaism does not differentiate between "clergy" and "laymen." Whether you are a rabbi or a taxi driver, you are expected to live a "normal" life, to be involved with the struggles and pleasures of the mundane world." This seems pretty cool to me because it makes it seem like everyone is on a journey to go to heaven together, and it is easier to relate to one another. It later explains how the Torah's ideals are to create a society of holy people. Meaning, everyone has to live up to the same standard, but can also engage in direct dialogue with G-d and the Torah. The article also explains that the rabbi is simply there to "help others bridge the needs of the spirit with the realities of life" (www.chabad.org).

As for the laws within the marriage, rabbis share most of the same laws as every other person. They believe that adultery, the sexual relationship with a person outside of their marriage, is forbidden. Another thing I found interesting was the belief against "Niddah." Niddah, as described on Wikipedia.org says, "A man is not allowed to have sexual relations with a woman, including his wife, during and after her menstrual period, until after she undergoes the proper cleansing procedure in a mikveh." This is shown in Leviticus 18:19 and says that the actual woman in this situation is referred to as "Niddah." Religious intermarriage is something that is also forbidden. Israelite priests or "kohanim" are also not allowed to marry: divorcees, converts, a woman captured during warfare, a woman who has certain forbidden sexual relationships or a widow.

Another article that I found said "It's very rare to find an unmarried rabbi. A Jew's first commandment is to be fruitful and multiply" (www.chabad.org). As another Question and Answer article said, it makes the rabbis seem like one with the community, all trying to reach the same goal. Another person said they had cousins who were Orthodox Rabbis that had 7 and nine kids each. I think this could make things feel more personal, especially when a rabbi is giving a sermon.

However there are some issues that rabbis disagree on. One of them being whether same-sex marriage should be allowed in the church. This is an important debate because rabbis are the ones that are officiating marriages, so many have differing views on whether they should be allowed to minister a same-sex marriage. Check out this article here on an Orthodox Rabbi's views and strong role in advocating for same-sex marriages in his religion.

Articles used: http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/248162/jewish/Can-a-Rabbi-Get-Married.htm

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forbidden_relationships_in_Judaism

Marriage for Hindu priests (2015-10-28 02:38)

The big question here is whether Hindu priests are allowed to get married. I looked to Google to the answer for this and many others were as stumped as I was on the question. On some forums there were responses such as: "My mother-in-law told me that Hindu priests can't get married, but someone else I knew in Malaysia said that she knew married priests" or "A priest might marry, I don't know." These answers only confused me more, and somewhat made me laugh. So, I had to turn to different sources to find the correct information.

Hinduism highly considers celibacy an important aspect of life. In ancient India, seers and sages observed abstinence even though they were married themselves. So, then and even today Hindu priests are considered the same. They can marry, and most do, but they are subject to the same abstinence rules that apply before getting married. Priests in the Hindu faith are not ordained like some other religions. Instead, it is a personal sacrifice where they study and prepare to enter priesthood, and when they feel ready they can. Hindu priests are commonly referred to as an archaka, who conduct worship in a Hindu temple or a Vedic purohita. One thing that I found to be interesting is that Hindu monks follow a strict vow of celibacy, whereas the priests do not, once they are married. Most Hindu ceremonies actually need a married priest, where the wife is present to assist in any trivial duties. An unmarried, divorced or widowed priest is actually seen as not eligible to perform certain religious ceremonies. So there is your answer folks. After much research, Hindu priests CAN in fact marry and do not have to be celibate throughout the marriage.

Marriage among Islam Imams (2015-10-28 02:46)

Muslims believe that healthy men and women cannot live without sexual desires and because they give the rights to marry and live out their lives to all lay people, they also expect imams to marry and do the same. Celibate people within the faith is rare because most people believe that the will to follow through with it is very difficult. They realize that it can be lived out and admire those who do, but for the most part every Muslim is married, including the imams. One quote I found actually said, "Marriage is half of the faith; if I had one more day to live and was not married, I would take a wife, so that I should not meet God as an unmarried man" (<http://www.answers-to-muslims.com/html/-celibacy.html>). I found this quote to be very interesting because it shows how powerful marriage is in the Islam faith and how it is a vow in itself and a promise to God.

In Islam there is actually a limit to how many wives a man can have. Men, along with Imams, are allowed to have up to four wives but no more. The Shias believe that the Imams are infallible but still only limit them to four wives, unless one passes away. They believe that, how some religions take vows of celibacy, men and women take vows of marriage and continue to live it out through their daily lives. So, if a man feels that he can take on the responsibility of four women and live out his duties to them, he can.

Funny responses I found on ummah.com regarding the question "Can Muslim priests marry?"

- "of course they aren't priests"

- "Lol, is this actually true?"

Marriage among Buddhist monks and nuns (2015-10-28 02:47)

The Buddhist view on marriage is that it is a secular affair and thus does not consider it a sacrament. Buddhist monks and nuns are required to be a constant model for the lay people, showing them how to earn merit through them and how to protect the doctrine. The monks and nuns are not required to live out vows of obedience to a superior. Since the Buddha did not appoint a successor, he left it so that individual groups of monastics would make the decisions regarding monastic rules. As a monastic order, they came to the conclusion that Buddhist monks and nuns should not marry and should live out extensive vows of chastity. This rule excludes Zen monks, however. The monks who take this vow believe that it is uplifting and thus they learn a lot about themselves. This can be compared to the Catholic view on vowing to chastity, where they believe all their time goes to God because they are married to him. Monks believe that the vow changes all perspectives of desire and allows them to truly invest more time for things such as meditation and yoga practices.

A lot of Westerners actually switch back to the lay life after being a monk for a little while. However, they truly believe that the experience of abstaining from sex made them a more mature and self reliable person. Fun fact, in Thailand many women like to date a guy that has been a monk for at least three months because it shows that they are a hold of themselves.

Read an interesting article about the Dalai Lama talking about why monks don't miss sex here!

gads

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