

When Love And Religion Collide

A close friendship and marriage are **not** the same.

Our lives can be enriched by having all kinds of friendships, good friends with different beliefs can challenge each other's views but do **not** have to come to an agreement with a friend in terms of how you will live your lives or if you married how you will raise your children.

Friendships between the men and women have a way of leading to deeper relationships, which leads to many problems even when one has no deep religious conviction.

Some parents feel strongly about this issue that they will disown their children if they marry someone of another faith.

Even if your parents do not mind an interfaith relationship, conflicts can come up over the wedding ceremony, holidays and other religious observances, or habits.

You may **not** realise how important these situations are until you have to face them, to your parents and to you.

You may find yourself constantly having to smooth over hurt feelings and misunderstandings.

Most marriages will involve having children, then an additional problem will come, you will have to agree how to bring them up and what to teach them about your different beliefs.

You cannot successfully have two types of religion in the home.

Religion provides a sense of identity, a link between generations, and a sense of what is right and wrong.

When you are trying to convey these things to your children and you differ, there will be major conflicts.

What if you observe the Seventh Day Sabbath and your wife goes to church on a Sunday?

Both Catholics and Jews put pressure on parents to bring up the children according to their religious faith.

For any child to have positive religious experiences, it has to be a family affair. This will **not** happen in an interfaith marriage.

What about raising children with no religion at all and letting them choose later?

When children are brought up without religion, they do not have a solid value system and moral base to make decisions in their own lives and that can cause confusion.

To make two religions work together and avoid having a dictatorship in the marriage, both will have to give a little.

This does not really work for both will feel they are being unfaithful to their beliefs.

Too often people wait until they are married before they face the effect of these differences.

This is too late even if before marriage your partner showed interest in conversion to or accepting your beliefs.

Any conversion is very unlikely, and becomes even more unlikely as we grow older, when spiritual commitments are likely to deepen, and a wider gap will form between you and the one you love.

Matthew 22:37-38 [New King James] *“Jesus said to him, ‘‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’’ This is the first and great commandment.’’*

This means that true religion is a total way of life that includes love for your spouse and others, but that your first priority is to the Creator God you worship, [**Luke 14:26-33**].

Amos 3:3 [New King James] *“Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?”*

Agreement on major issues, like religion, in a marriage are essential,

Marrying within your faith is something you should do for the sake of your partner, the children and yourself.

Compatibility is essential for a married couple to experience the full joys of that union. I know this from personal experience, having changed belief after marriage.