

A publication of
Genuine Joy Ministries

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Being newly in love is a fantastic feeling but sometimes doesn't help when making serious decisions—like getting married.
- Marriage isn't just a relationship between husband & wife, it's a relationship between parents & children and with extended families, on both sides, as well.

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The Hard Questions

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Answers to Life's Hard Questions— Are You Ready?

Dear Joy,

I'm a Christian girl in love with a Buddhist guy. He's wonderful and has asked me to marry him. I want to say yes but need help sorting this out and can't talk to my family because they are totally against it.



I can understand your attraction to this young man. Buddhists tend to be gentle, kind, people who believe in, "live and let live." Some of their philosophies even echo some Christian principles since they are taught that Buddha "requires humility, disregard of worldly wealth, patience and resignation in adversity, love to enemies. . . non-resistance to evil, confession of sins and conversion," according to Bishop Jean Paul Hilaire.

You need to examine some important issues carefully before making your decision. Marriage is a big step and can (and should) last for a lifetime. Being newly in love is a fantastic feeling but sometimes doesn't



help when making serious decisions—like getting married. I know, you're in love and want to get married but getting married in the throes of being in love is not always wise. Stepping back and really looking with eyes wide open at your situation as well as seeking counsel from solid believers is important. We're glad you've taken this first step of seeking counsel from solid believers.

Your family should be those to whom you turn to get advice. But you say they are totally against your marrying this man. Your family is your first line of defense against making bad decisions. They know you well and have your best interests in mind. But I know it's easy to think they have ulterior motives and just want their way. So we'll move on for now, however, their reaction raises a red flag.

Are you prepared to be a part of another culture? As a Christian, we worship the one, true God, accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and attend worship services on a regular basis. Would your young man attend church with you? Would you go to the temple with him and engage in idol worship? If you have attended the

temple with him, it may have been intriguing and you felt sophisticated and worldly wise. That can be a good feeling but feelings don't keep us in harmony with our God. Having a right relationship with Him does.

Have you two discussed raising children? Where would they worship or do you plan to introduce them to both and let them choose? Since you are a Christian, do you want to help your husband raise little Buddhists? Which leads us back to the issue of your family. Do you want your children to have close ties with their grandparents? Grandparents add such depth and richness to a child's life. Would this create a conflict with your spouse or with his parents? Another matter to consider is being out of your parents' wishes. You are probably both old enough so you don't need to ask parental permission to marry. But take it from someone who knows and has seen the heartache and disruption of bad relations with either set of parents. Parents can be a great source of advice, support, companionship and perhaps even willing and capable babysitters when the need arises.



For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Finally, though, we come to the real issue. As a Christian, how can you walk together in harmony with a partner unless you are going the same direction? I saw a drawing once of two donkeys harnessed together and working peacefully together as they pulled in the same direction. Beside the first drawing was a second one. This showed two donkeys harnessed together but one pulling in one direction and his yokefellow straining in the other direction. They accomplished nothing as they tried to go separate ways while linked together.

Deuteronomy 22:10 states: "Do not plow with an ox and a donkey yoked together." This brings up a ludicrous picture of a huge ox beside a small donkey, both trying to do their own thing. This can be applied to a marriage of two who decide to be together but with separate goals and desires and gods to worship. In II Corinthians 6:14, 15, Paul writes, "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial (another name for Satan)? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?"

If you are sincere in your belief in Christ, and I believe you are, your first priority should be to love, obey and serve Him. I'm convinced your young man is a nice enough person but a Christian must marry in the faith and one must let unbelievers marry unbelievers. To have a truly successful and fulfilling marriage, you will be wise to choose God's way.

Resources & Info

Web Articles:

[*Unequally Yoked Together*](#)

[*Looking for Love—Marrying a Non-Christian*](#)

[*Unequally Yoked—A Call to Prayer*](#)

Books:

Beloved Unbeliever by Jo Berry

Each for the Other: Marriage As It's Meant To Be
by Bryan Chapell



"You can't build a house on two sets of blueprints. In marriage, if one person operates on values rooted in Scripture, and the other operates on another set of values, it's only a matter of time until they collide over how to raise kids, spend money, or use leisure time. Sooner or later competing sets of values are going to hit head-on. God understands that. He warns against being 'unequally yoked' because he wants couples to avoid painful conflict."

—The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching

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Just for Fun

You really have to give this guy an A+ for effort. ...

George was a thoughtful husband. He wanted to give his wife something special for her birthday which was coming up soon. As he sat on the edge of the bed, he watched his wife turning back and forth looking at herself in the mirror. 'Reta,' he said, 'What would you like for your birthday?' His wife continued to look at herself and said, 'I'd like to be six again.'

George knew just what to do. On the big day, he got up early and made his wife a bowl of Fruit Loops (a sugared cereal). Then he took her to an amusement park where they rode all the rides. Five hours later, Reta's stomach felt upside down and her head was reeling. Never-the-less, George took her to McDonald's and bought her a (children's) Happy meal with extra fries and a chocolate shake. Next, it was a movie and popcorn, soda and her favorite candy.

As Reta wobbled into the house that evening and flopped on the bed, George asked her, 'Well, Dear, what was it like to be six again?' Reta looked up at him. Her expression changed. She said, 'I meant my dress size!'

Sometimes you come up with really hard, tough questions that you don't have the answers to.

At times you're too embarrassed or uncomfortable to ask your friends and family... and when you are brave enough to ask the questions, even they don't always have the answers.

You don't think you have anyone that you can talk to... well now you do.

Genuine Joy Ministries is dedicated to helping you find the answers to life's hardest questions.

Write us—Email us



You don't marry one person; you marry three:

the person you think they are, the person they are, and the person they are going to become as a result of being married to you.

Richard Needham

