

The telephone rang. ‘Hello’, I answered. After a slight hesitation the soft voice of a young woman began, “Good evening, my name is Cindy Carpenter, and I was wondering if you could help me? I am a student at the University of Michigan and I met a young man who is also studying here. My parents warned me not to see him because you see, he is a Muslim. But I really like him.”

Can you help me?

I said to her, “Falling in love is a very beautiful thing and sometimes is quite easy. Just because a person has ‘fallen in love’ does not mean that she/he has given the relationship enough consideration. Nor does it mean that the relationship is right and will last. One of the most important decisions you will ever make is choosing whom you will marry.” I continued, “You should not enter into marriage too quickly without considering all the implications of your decision.”

For Cindy and so many others like her, the fact that he is a Muslim is of utmost importance. To explain what I mean by that I would like to share some verses concerning this subject from the Muslim sacred book, the Qur’an, and some verses from the Bible. Let’s Examine the difference of belief regarding marriage and the treatment of women in Islam and Christianity.

The Qur’an allows a man to have up to four wives

In fact today it is still legal and acceptable in the Middle East and Muslim majority countries for a Muslim to marry up to four wives at one time. The only condition is to grant them equal privileges. The Qur’anic edict is:

فَانكِحُوا مَا طَابَ لَكُمْ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ مَثْنَى وَثُلَاثَ وَرُبَاعَ فَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا فَوَاحِدَةً

‘Marry women of your choice, two three or four. But if ye fear that ye shall not be able to deal justly with them, then only one’ (Sura 4:3).

Muslims follow the example of Muhammad in their lives. He had many wives and even had the ‘divine privilege’ to keep any or put off others:

ثُرْجِي مَنْ تَشَاءُ مِنْهُنَّ وَتُؤْوِي إِلَيْكَ مَنْ تَشَاءُ
وَمَنْ ابْتَغَيْتَ مِنْ عَزَلْتَ فَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْكَ

‘You may put off whichever of them *you* wish and consort with whichever of them *you* wish, and as for any whom *you* may seek from among those you have set aside, there is no sin upon you’ (Sura 33:51).

The Bible allows only one wife

According to the Christian Scriptures, marriage is a covenant between the wife and the husband as a God given companion (Malachi

2:14). Their relationship is so close that they are united as one flesh (Matthew 19:6). Marriage is a relationship requiring 100 percent dedication and commitment. It cannot be shared.


In the Qur’an husbands are permitted to beat their wives

Not only is marriage respected less in Islam, but women too are respected less. Often they are viewed as a piece of property rather than a God-given spiritual companion for life. The Qur’an instructs husbands to beat their wives for their disobedience in such words:

وَاللَّاتِي يَخَافُونَ نُشُوزَهُنَّ فَعِظُوهُنَّ
وَاهْجُرُوهُنَّ فِي الْمَضَاجِعِ وَاضْرِبُوهُنَّ

‘As to those women on whose part you see ill conduct, admonish them. Refuse to share their beds and beat them’ (Sura 4:34).

In the Bible, husbands are admonished to love, honor and respect their wives. For example compare this to the command: ‘Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her’ (Ephesians 5:25). Elsewhere the following instruction is given: ‘Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them’ (Colossians 3:19). ‘Be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers’ (1 Peter 3:7).



Speaking of the physical relationship between man and the wife, the Qur'an says:

نِسَاؤُكُمْ حَرْثٌ لَّكُمْ فَأَتُوا حَرْثَكُمْ أَنَّى شِئْتُمْ

'Your wives are as a tilth unto to you, so approach your tilth when and how you will' (Sura 2:223).

In contrast, the Bible says: 'husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself' (Ephesians 5:28). Also elsewhere the instructions are: 'The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer' (1 Corinthians 7:3-5).

Your children are not your children

Your children have to be raised according to the *Shari'a* (Islamic law) and they will follow their father as Muslims and if you are divorced you will have no power over them. There are no visitation rights in Islam.

Marrying a Muslim is a serious decision to face. I would not want to see someone marry a man who believes in these things.

After talking with her Cindy said, "But he could not possibly believe this way. He is very kind to me, well-educated, well mannered and intelligent."

In response I could only tell her that Muslims are very shrewd, especially when it comes to women. If a Muslim student needs a green card or permanent residency in the USA, he will not hesitate to use a girl by leading her into marriage when he has no intention of making it last. The Americans have a hard time understanding this because their country based its society on the Christian principles of honesty. In contrast, the Muslim comes from a society that is based on Qur'anic principles.

Before you say I do

"Cindy, I know this is a hard decision for you to make, but I told you the truth. You are at the crossroad between passion and reality. Choose reality and save yourself many serious troubles. God bless."

If like Cindy, you are contemplating marriage to a Muslim, please take heed.

Jesus to Muslims

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Before You Marry a Muslim

***Understanding
your husband's
religion & culture***

