Week #305: How does a couple maintain harmony in the home if each has different faith?

(Due 8 a.m. Monday, Nov. 3. Prints Nov. 9.)

When both parties share a Christian faith, it is often apparent that their beliefs coincide far more than they might differ. I think the major problem facing couples is the incidence of one party having no upbringing in any faith whatsoever and becoming both tolerant and even appreciative of the other party’s strong faith. TYhe strain on a marriage often comes not from the parties themselves but from intolerant family pressures. There is also a gradual conversion process in which the parties embrace one faith together, but only after a sincere effort of both for mutual respect of each other’s core beliefs. Finally, one area contributing to unrest may be raising the children in one party’s faith. This can be either a blessing or an obstacle. During the engagement period, couples need to frankly discuss these issues so that there are not later recriminations or serious conflicts.

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