

# Religious differences not obstacle to love

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A rule of thumb: Don't talk about religion or politics. Both are volatile issues, not suited for polite discourse.

Another adage: You can't argue with faith. Attempting to coerce someone into adopting your belief system is futile.

But when you're in a relationship, all issues are fair game, especially when it comes to religion and its impact on your future.

Interfaith relationships are a perpetual compromise. Parents are pushy, holidays are hard and the more serious it gets, the more the problems might escalate.

Fortunately for UNC senior Amanda Lee and her boyfriend Mitchell Kaye, it was the opposite.

"In the abstract it was easier to not be accepting of it, but when they got know each of us, I think some of the problems faded away," she said.

Parents aside, other issues can arise. What religion will the children be? What holidays to celebrate? How much are you willing to compromise?

Resolutions to religious quarrels come in many forms. Conversion is an option, as is com-

promise and coercion.

And deciding which course of action is best for any given couple might necessitate counseling from a religious adviser, whether it is a rabbi or a priest.

Dr. Phil says the measure of a good relationship is its ability to meet the needs of both the people involved.

When it comes to the religious aspect of the relationship, the same is true. As long as both people feel spiritually fulfilled, the relation-

ship is worth maintaining.

Take "Meet the Parents," for example. When Ben Stiller discloses that he is Jewish to his fiancée's Christian ex-boyfriend, he is met with tolerance and appreciation.

"Really? Well, so was J.C.," replies Owen Wilson.

Focusing on common points of religious sects might lead couples to realize that the idiosyncrasies that define the differences are irrelevant.

Differing doctrines don't spell

doom for lovers. That which you call your faith is merely a facade for a shared spirituality, the core of any sect.

To perpetuate the abundance of Shakespearean allusions being thrown around this Valentine's

Day:

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose/ By any other name would smell as sweet."

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