

# Scapegoats of Mixed Marriages

( Editorial )

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**T**he Holy Bible teaches very clearly how sacred marital life has to be! Scripture reminds us that married couples should be people who come together according to the will of God. **“I will make him a helper as his partner”**(Gen 2:18). Marriage is a great call to participate in the process of creation and also to share love for each other. The number of people, who ruin their lives entangling themselves in relationships that are not blessed by God, is on the rise. A great majority of those who fall into the abysmal pit of wrong relationships are Christians. Many young men and women are influenced by the evil power that prompts them to forget Christian values and defy their parents in choosing their own partners. Many are deceived by their own immature decisions. During retreats I have seen tears streaming down the cheeks of parents who had the misfortune to witness the sufferings of their children who sought their own way. Why does this happen? Isn't it because children are not instructed adequately in spiritual truth in their childhood? All parents should bear in mind the example of Tobit who gives counsel to his son in spiritual and moral truths like a will prior to his death. The advice Tobit gives to his son Tobias has to be a precautionary measure. **“Do not marry a foreign woman, for we are the descendants of the prophets”** (Tob 4:12).

The tragedy in the life of Samson who was God's anointed, began due to the evil effects of this sort of mixed marriage. It was **“when the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him”** (Judg 13:25) that Satan set traps to destroy Samson and his family. Samson's parents had been trying their best to dissuade him from his attraction towards a Philistine woman. **‘Is there not a woman among your kin or among all our people that you must go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?** (Judg. 14:4). But the moment he defied his parents and took that lady as his wife, Samson's nature started changing. He started telling lies. **“He did not tell them this”** (Judg 14:7-9). **“He killed the lion”** (Judg. 14:6). He revealed some truths to the Philistine woman in his weak moments. She took advantage of this weak moment to destroy Samson and then left him (Judg 14:18-20). Samson was in a rage (Judg. 14:20). He killed others (14:19). Then he committed sin with another woman (Judges 16:1). Samson's life had been haunted by a series of vices and setbacks as he went through relationships that were not blessed by God.

Mixed marriage is not advocated not because other religions are wrong nor because it is a sin to do so. It is because there is a great possibility of contradictions that lie hidden in their religious precepts, views with regard to morality, their family traditions and culture that enter into the life of married couples and their families. The life of Samson is a pertinent example. The intensity of this may be reduced a little if they are willing to receive baptism in the church and if the marriage is blessed as the will of God. No doubt there are rare cases in which people lead a good family life inspite of marrying from communities of other religion. Nevertheless, it is very important that one should never forget the teachings imparted clearly by the Catholic Church. “Do not take the complications and risks of mixed marriages lightly. There can be a lot of conflicts in married life, particularly in the matter of education of children with regard to faith, different views about married life and also varied attitudes towards religions. This may tempt them to develop an indifference towards religion” (C.C.C.1634). Shouldn't parents and their children take care not to shed tears for the rest of their lives due to certain emotional decisions taken at weak moments?

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