

*Intermarried couples encounter a number of challenges related to their different religious and ethnic backgrounds. This questionnaire has been designed to help engaged couples identify many of these key challenges. For more information related to these challenges, consult the Interfaith Marriage Web site at www.interfaith.goarch.org, or Fr. Charles' book entitled, *When You Inter-marry: A Resource for Inter-Christian, Intercultural Couples, Parents and Families*.*

Each partner should read each statement and circle **Y** for “yes” and **N** for “no.”

1. Have we prayerfully discussed the pros and cons of intermarriage? **Y N**
2. Have we prayerfully discussed the pros and cons of becoming a single faith family? **Y N**
3. Have I been entirely honest with myself about entering an inter-Christian marriage? **Y N**
4. Have I been entirely honest with my spouse about entering an inter-Christian marriage? **Y N**
5. Have we discussed how each of us will meet our personal religious and spiritual needs in an inter-Christian marriage? **Y N**
6. Is it necessary to be acquainted with my spouses' religious tradition? **Y N**
7. Have we decided whether we will worship together or apart? **Y N**
8. Have we discussed our religious financial commitments? **Y N**
9. Can we afford to pledge to two churches? **Y N**
10. How will we determine what amounts to pledge to both churches? **Y N**
11. If we only pledge to my church, will that effect my partner? **Y N**
12. If we don't pledge to my church, will that affect me? **Y N**
13. Is it important for us to consider how much of a Greek Orthodox home we will have? **Y N**
14. Have we talked about where the icons will go in our home? **Y N**
15. Do I know how my non-Orthodox partner will react when I burn incense? **Y N**
16. Have we talked about what our diet will look like around the Orthodox Church's fasting periods? **Y N**
17. Have we talked about how we will pray together as a couple in our home? **Y N**
18. Have we talked about where our future children will be baptized? **Y N**
19. Will I be upset if our children are baptized in my spouse's church? **Y N**
20. Will my marriage be negatively impacted if I insist we baptize and raise our children in my faith tradition? **Y N**
21. Will my parents be upset if our children are baptized in my spouse's church? **Y N**
22. Will my in-laws be upset if we baptize our children in my faith tradition? **Y N**
23. Have we talked about how our children will develop their religious identity? **Y N**
24. Have we talked about how we will deal with our future children's questions regarding our religious differences? **Y N**
25. Does honoring and respecting our parents mean that we should acquiesce to their demands when it comes to making decisions about our children's religious and spiritual development? **Y N**
26. Am I aware of the Orthodox Church's Rules Pertaining to Intermarried Couples? **Y N**
27. Are we aware of the Orthodox Church's Rules? **Y N**
28. Do I know why my non-Orthodox in-laws cannot receive the sacraments in the Greek Orthodox Church? **Y N**
29. Should my future in-laws want information about non-Orthodox participation in the Orthodox Church's sacraments, have we discussed how we will explain the Orthodox Church's position? **Y N**
30. Have we discussed how we will respect each other's cultural traditions and preferences? **Y N**
31. Is it necessary to be acquainted with my future spouse's ethnic/cultural background? **Y N**

Scoring: Give yourself one point for each “yes” answer. Add your scores together to arrive at a final score.

If you both score 40 or better, you are well on the way toward finding some respectful, holy agreement regarding your religious and cultural differences. But please do not assume that you will not experience some challenges related to your religious and cultural differences in the future. Instead, you might want to review your answers together to consider where your points of disagreement exist. You should also consider consulting this resource in the future should you suddenly encounter some challenges. Should you get stuck at any time, you might also consider asking your pastors for some assistance. Another option might be to log on to the Interfaith Marriage Website at www.interfaith.goarch.org.

If you both score less than 40, you should remember that your score does not indicate that your religious and cultural differences will negatively impact future marriage and family well being. However, it does suggest that you could benefit from some additional prayerful discussion regarding your religious and cultural differences. To help you, consider reviewing your answers together, along with this resource. In addition, further prayerful, respectful discussion should help. If you happen to get stuck while you are discussing your differences and cannot reach any agreement, you should consult your pastors and/or log on to the Interfaith Marriage Website for help.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

INTERFAITH WEB SITE

www.Interfaith.goarch.org

OUTREACH & EVANGELISM WEB SITE

www.Outreach.goarch.org

PUBLICATIONS

When You Intermarry

By Charles Joanides, Ph.D, LMFT

Ministering to Intermarried Couples

By Charles Joanides, Ph.D, LMFT

Attending to Your Marriage

By Charles Joanides, Ph.D, LMFT

OUTREACH & EVANGELISM:

Some Practical Steps

Department of Outreach & Evangelism



Assessing Your Readiness to Intermarry

~A Questionnaire~



Icon by the hand of Athanasios Clark

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