

How Can Couple Tell If They'll Be Good Partners?

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S.J.
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You've stated several times that love is not enough to assure happiness in marriage. How else can a couple tell whether they'll make good partners? It seems to me that if you've fallen in love with someone, that person must have the right qualities if you wouldn't have been attracted to them in the first place. People don't fall in love with just anybody!



You have a good point there. Sensible young men and women are initially attracted to each other by the good qualities they discover, or think they discover, in each other. As they come to know one another better, this attraction may grow into friendship and love, or further acquaintance may reveal traits they dislike and they part company.

In a society life our own that places the responsibility of selecting their future marriage partners upon the young people themselves, this process of attraction, testing, acceptance or rejection becomes the normal way of choosing one's partner.

Under the circumstances, if a couple falls in love, they take this as a sign that they are suited for marriage. Does this necessarily follow? Perhaps if we analyze this process in greater detail, you will see why love is not enough.

In the first place we are talking about choosing a partner for marriage. The essential word here is marriage. What does it imply? For Christians, marriage is a vocation, an entire way of life. This means that a man and woman agree to seek their sanctification and happiness together by dedicating themselves in the service of God. Marriage, as a life-vocation, designates one way of fulfilling this service.

Hence the marriage partner you choose should have the qualities needed to assist you in striving for perfection. At a minimum this implies an understanding and appreciation of the faith, together with an operative, practical respect for the moral law.

How can partners be "good" for each other if they do not help each other achieve the essential purpose of life?

But successful married life also requires other qualities. Marriage implies a complete and exclusive partnership. Henceforth they must be capable of mutual

For example, you may be married very un幸福ly to the special situation you are involved in, or the future content you have made.

You may be stimulated and challenged by the experience of emotional impulses and drives you did not realize you possessed.

Or, as the experts say, you may be only "in love with love," that is, you may take too much exhilarating excitement of becoming emotionally involved with one of the opposite sex as a necessary sign that you have found the "one and only," though it may merely indicate your first discovery that such attachments may prove emotionally rewarding.

These elements may exert such force in modern courtship because our society emphasizes only the romantic aspects of love. If a couple are in love, that's all that counts. Popular interest focuses on the "passion."

Once the lovers are united, they're supposed to live happily "ever after." This means that marriage is regarded as a goal in itself, rather than as the entrance to the ordering and cradling demands of family life.

Remember when I say that "love is not enough." I'm merely calling your attention to the fact that for Christians, marriage is a life-vocation with serious, long range implications.

Of course, there must be love, but since it is possible to love someone with whom you could never lead a successful family life, it should be obvious that love is not enough.

Altar Stone Unearthed

Headline — (RNS) — An altar stone dating from the fourth century was unearthed during the renovation of the 12th century Roman Catholic church of St. Lawrence, in the town of St. Lawrence.

Experts said the rectangular stone, has quadratic designs in each corner and bears an inscription during the renovation. It may have served as a foundation for a table altar in an ancient church.

Refugees Face Forced Return To Red China

By FATHER IRONON OUBEMANS, O.F.M.

Jakarta — (NC) — Most Chinese Catholics in Indonesia hope to remain in this country if pressure for the departure of all Chinese does not grow too strong.

Government policy and popular prejudice are combining to force them out. Many thousands of Chinese have already gone to communist China in ships provided by the Peking government.

SOME CHINESE have started a movement to try to stay in this country by becoming naturalized with the general population. Most of the movement's leaders are Catholics.

Reports circulating since the announcement of Chinese departure being forcibly expelled from Indonesia and forced to go to communist China are greatly exaggerated. Not Chinese of all faiths are in difficulties here.

An estimated three million persons of Chinese origin are living in Indonesia. About two million of these acquired Indonesian citizenship under a 1950 law of the newly created Republic of Indonesia. The law stipulated that they would hold Indonesian citizenship unless they expressly rejected it within a two-year period.

About one million are estimated to have rejected it, mainly because of vivid memories of the anti-Chinese actions of many of those who won Indonesian independence from the Dutch.

But the status of the two million Chinese who retained Indonesian citizenship was still obscured by the policy of both the communist government in Peking and the nationalist Chinese government on Formosa. These governments held that Chinese blood meant Chinese citizenship. Thus the two million Indonesian citizens of Chinese blood held dual citizenship.

This ambiguity was a handy instrument for Indonesian who wanted to stay in Indonesia of the communist government in Peking and the nationalist Chinese government on Formosa. Many times they could doubt of the loyalty of the Chinese by passing to their double citizenship.

Both communist China and nationalist China began using the Chinese community in Indonesia as a shield for their propaganda activities. This became a danger for them because Chinese in Indonesia, fearing for their future, tended to look on China as their possible protector.

Chinese sympathizing with the communists and those who



First Birthday After 100

Cleveland — (RNS) — Mrs. Mary Fisher, oldest resident of the Little Sisters of the Poor home for the aged in Cleveland, marks her 101st birthday with the help of Sister Rose (left) and Sister Anne Marie. The order, founded in France in 1839 by Jeanne Jugan, a servant girl, operates 51 homes for the aged in the U.S. and 369 in 19 nations throughout the world.

Racing, Boxing Sinful?

Notre Dame — (RNS) — Bernard said, "but I don't think these factors are great enough to offset the very serious danger to the lives of those participating. Now is the economic law of prize money for the drivers enough of an inducement to permit them to enter the '500'?"

Further exploring the "Chicago Mob" — (RNS) — Bernard said, "but I don't think these factors are great enough to offset the very serious danger to the lives of those participating. Now is the economic law of prize money for the drivers enough of an inducement to permit them to enter the '500'?"

In an article coinciding with preparations for the annual May 20 event, Father George Bernard, C.S.C., who is a member of the university's theology department, noted that since 1950 a total of 18 drivers or mechanics have been killed during the race itself, and 29 others during qualifications or practice runs.

"I KNOW THAT" as argument could be built on its certain value for the spectators and the scientific data which result from testing the three, four, and five cylinder, etc., under tremendous stress, Father of

Latvia Reds Step Up Persecution

Vilnius — (RNS) — Reliable reports reaching here concerning the status of the Catholic Church in the Soviet Baltic republics indicate a step-up of the Communist regime's anti-religious efforts.

The sources said that the Russians have closed a convent at Aglona in the Latvia republic, operated by the Dominican Sisters, believed to be the last Catholic religious order remaining in the Soviet Union. The fate of the convent's nuns was not known.

Meanwhile, Irvetta, official Communist organ published in Moscow, charged that Latvian religious leaders had on many occasions taken the initiative away from Communist officials. Irvetta said that priests had concentrated a number of new houses, even those of former athletes.

About one-third of Latvia's 2,000,000 population are Catholics, most of them concentrated in the regions adjoining Lithuania, another Soviet republic. The Metropolitan See of Riga has been without an archbishop since 1928 when Archbishop Antonis Spriguns, the only Catholic prelate free to carry on pastoral work in Latvia, died at the age of 81.

Congo Mob Smash Statue

Kinshasa — (RNS) — Marauding African tribesmen broke into a Catholic church here in the eastern Congo and warned priests that they would not be welcome after the territory becomes independent June 30.

During the attack, a statue of the Virgin Mary was smashed.

The theologian cited the rules of the New York State Athletic Commission which state that holding and awarding of prizes for boys are made "in proportion to the damaging effects." Hence, he said, "judging from these rules and taking into consideration other background facts, the holding of a football season"

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