

Two Life Changing Events

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Author Note

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Although people have different attitudes toward marriage and divorce, marriage and divorce have some similarities. In modern society, many people tend to make an easy decision on marriage and divorce. However, marriage and divorce should be considered big life events due to their common traits such as long religious histories, requirements of legal action, and strong social influences.

First, marriage and divorce both have long histories in most religions; for example, the Old Testament, which is a source of history for the three major religions, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam, states that marriage and divorce are not just a happening between a man and a woman but a symbol of relationships between God and men throughout some passages. According to Luck (2009),

the Old Testament taught that marriage was intended to be a permanent, covenantal relationship between a man, who was to protect and provide for his wife, and a woman, who was to remain monogamous to her husband. (para. 1)

Like marriage, divorce is also strongly and constantly stated in many parts of the Old Testament, and there are many stories and disciplines dealing with divorce. Therefore, both marriage and divorce have been regarded as very important issues in the religions.

Marriage and divorce also have commonalities in requiring legal action, because they are not only personal but also officially related to taxes, properties, and so on. When people get married in the United States, they often have a wedding ceremony and then have some documentations that require both spouses, the one who officiated the wedding, and one or two witnesses to apply for the marriage certificate according to their state's law. On the other hand,

in the case of divorce, people need to negotiate their conditions of shared properties and even their children in some cases and file formal documents to be authorized by Government.

Regardless of some differences in the process, both issues require a lot of time, endurance, and energy to be legally processed.

In spite of the fact that marriage and divorce happen between only two people, they affect many people around them. Marriage usually greatly impacts family members and is a joyful moment in their lives. The two families of the bride and groom become related by marriage and results in a new relationship between the families. Likewise, marriage also influences friends and communities. For instance, the bride can choose to change her last name after a wedding and start being called by her new name, which affects the way friends and communities view the bride. Similarly, divorce also strongly affects family members; however, unfortunately they are most of the time adversely affected by divorce. According to Dr. Schwartz (2012), who is currently a clinical social therapist, siblings and parents also often feel a loss for a relationship with their son in law or daughter in law, so divorce may cause family to feel “anger and bitterness toward their own sibling or adult child” (The Impact of Divorce, para. 9). Although marriage brings positive effect and divorce brings negative effect, both undeniably affect the people around them.

In conclusion, this essay states some similarities of marriage and divorce. In many ways, marriage is similar to divorce despite their opposite images. Religiously, marriage and divorce have been a heated topic of discussion since long ago. Socially, they greatly affect the people around them. Legally, marriage and divorce require a lot of time, endurance, and energy to be approved. Religiously, socially, and legally, marriage and divorce are not actions to be taken lightly. One should be very careful and serious when deciding on marriage or divorce.

References

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