

Chapter 11

Faith

(Alternative Religion Chapter for Evangelical Christians)

The Man's Quiz

Case Study

In her childhood, June's father had made all the major decisions, handled all the discipline and generally ran a very tight ship. After June married Dan, she was disappointed that he did not take charge like her father. "You're supposed to be the head of the household," she said, "so start acting like one." Dan disagreed. "I love you, and I'd give my life for you, but I don't see in the Bible where Jesus bossed the disciples around." He went on to say that he'd been taught that when it says in Ephesians "Wives, submit to your husbands.... Husbands, love your wives" it doesn't mean that wives shouldn't love their husbands or husbands shouldn't submit to their wives sometimes. Dan explained, "You know when Jesus washed the disciples feet—that's the kind of headship he wants me to show."

QUIZ

1. When you were a child, were you taught the beliefs of a particular church?
 - yes
 - yes, of several churches
 - not really
 - no

2. If yes, what type of church was it? (in alphabetical order)

- African Methodist Episcopal
- Anglican
- Apostolic
- Assembly of God
- Baptist
- Brethren
- Catholic
- Christian and Missionary Alliance
- Episcopal
- Full Gospel
- Greek Orthodox
- Lutheran
- Methodist
- Missionary
- Pentecostal
- Presbyterian
- Salvation Army
- other _____

3. Do you currently believe in God?

- yes
- no
- I'm not sure

4. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?

- yes
- no
- I'm not sure

5. Do you pray to God?

- yes, several times a day
- yes, every day
- yes, frequently
- yes, when I need help
- not usually
- never

6. Do you believe that the Bible is the Word of God?

- yes
- no
- I don't know

7. Do you think that as long as you believe in God, you don't need to read the Bible?
- yes
 - no
8. Have you ever read the Bible on your own (i.e. as opposed to hearing it read at church)?
- yes
 - once in a while
 - no
9. Do you study the Bible on your own?
- yes
 - I try to, but I'm not always consistent with it
 - no
10. If you believe that the Bible is the Word of God, what do you think about Ephesians 5:22-33, "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife.... Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ... (H)usbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies...."?
- it means my wife has to go along with everything I want
 - it means my wife has to go along with what I want as long as it is in accordance with the rest of the Bible
 - it means that I should do everything my wife wants since I am supposed to love her as much as I love myself
 - it means we have an inter-dependent relationship in which we consult the other, but I get the last word
 - it means that we have an inter-dependent relationship in which we both have input on major decisions
 - I think people have misinterpreted this passage and it has to be taken in context with the entire passage about submission to one another (i.e. "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ": Ephesians 5:27)
 - I think that this passage only applied to believers of that time
11. Do you think that as long as you believe in God, you don't need to attend church?
- yes
 - no
12. Are you currently affiliated with any church?
- yes
 - no

13. If yes, what is your current church?

- African Methodist Episcopal
- Anglican
- Apostolic
- Assembly of God
- Baptist
- Brethren
- Catholic
- Christian and Missionary Alliance
- Episcopal
- Full Gospel
- Greek Orthodox
- Lutheran
- Methodist
- Missionary
- Pentecostal
- Presbyterian
- Salvation Army
- other _____

14. Do you accept, without question, whatever your church teaches?

- yes
- yes, the people teaching are far better trained than I am
- no, only if it appears to be backed up by the Bible
- no

15. Do you think that faith and religion (your church) are the same thing?

- yes
- no
- I'm not sure

16. How important is your faith (your particular beliefs) to you?

- extremely
- very
- somewhat
- not very
- not at all

17. If your faith is important to you, do you think it's important that your fiancée also believe in Jesus?

- yes
- ideally, but I love her so much I'm willing to marry her whether she does or not
- no, she'll come around eventually, especially with prayer
- no, the person I marry is more important than what she professes to believe
- no

18. Do you think that your beliefs about God should affect how you live your life?
- definitely
 - mostly
 - sometimes
 - never
19. Do you act in a way that reflects your faith in God in your life?
- I closely adhere to the principles laid out by my church
 - I closely adhere to the principles laid out in the Bible
 - I try to live (in a general way) by the principles laid out by my church
 - I try to live (in a general way) by the principles laid out in the Bible
 - I'm only loosely connected to my church, mostly out of habit
 - even though I know what my church teaches, I act independently (i.e. I make up my own mind about what is right and wrong)
 - even though I know what the Bible teaches, I act independently (i.e. I make up my own mind about what is right and wrong)
20. How often do you attend church?
- I attend services consistently
 - I attend services once in a while
 - I rarely attend services, perhaps only attending once or twice a year
 - my faith is strong even though my connection to a particular church is weak
 - I never attend services
21. If church is a central part of your life, do you think it's important that you and your wife are adherents of the same denomination?
- yes, we must be from exactly the same denomination or variety
 - yes, we must have very similar beliefs (e.g. we are from different denominations, but they are different varieties of Baptist)
 - yes, some similarity is necessary (e.g. we both believe in baptism by immersion)
 - no, the person I marry is more important than what she professes to believe
 - no, she'll come to my church eventually, especially with if I pray for her
 - no
22. If you attend church regularly, do you expect your wife to attend with you?
- yes
 - only if she feels like it
 - no
 - we'll alternate between her church and mine, if she likes

23. Do you expect your level of participation at church to change after you get married?
- it will increase
 - it will stay the same
 - it will decrease
24. Do you plan to tithe and, if so, how much?
- yes, we will tithe more than 10% of our income
 - yes, we will tithe 10% of our income
 - yes, we will tithe 10% of our income after our expenses
 - yes, we will tithe as much as we can afford
 - yes, we will tithe when we can
 - no, we will not tithe
25. If you are not marrying a Christian and your faith is important to you, how will you handle it?
- I'll expect my wife to convert to Christianity
 - I will convert to my wife's religion
 - we will celebrate both religious customs and traditions when possible
 - when two religious traditions or customs collide, we will alternate between mine and my wife's
 - we will each remain true to our respective religions without expecting the other to participate in any way
 - I will continue with my own church, because she does not have any religious affiliations or beliefs
26. If you come from different churches or religions and have children, which beliefs and traditions will you choose to teach them?
- mine
 - my wife's
 - both and then let them decide when they're old enough
 - whatever one our child shows an interest in
 - none (we will not participate in any church)
27. Will you expect your children to attend church services?
- yes
 - sometimes
 - no
28. Do you wish to send your child to a school with a particular religious orientation (e.g. a church-based school)?
- yes
 - maybe
 - no

29. If you choose to adopt your wife's religious views, how do you anticipate your parents and siblings, etc., will act when you or your child reaches a fundamental point in that religion (e.g. baptism)?
- they will refuse to come
 - they will try to change our minds
 - they will come to the appropriate services, but they will not personally participate if it is against their consciences
 - we expect them to respect our choices and support us
 - they should fully immerse themselves in the tradition out of respect for us
 - there will be no problem because they have the same views we do
 - other _____
30. If your wife chooses to adopt your religious views, how do you anticipate her parents and siblings, etc., will act when she or your child reaches a fundamental point in that religion (e.g. baptism)?
- they will refuse to come
 - they will try to change our minds
 - they will come to the appropriate services, but they will not personally participate if it is against their consciences
 - we expect them to respect our choices and support us
 - they should fully immerse themselves in the tradition out of respect for us
 - there will be no problem because they have the same views we do
 - other _____