

**Why do religions place a great importance to marriage?****Why do people get married?**

- **Love may be the biggest reason** people marry but it's not the only one.
- People **make the commitment** to spend their lives together for more than a single reason.
- Every couple chooses to commit to marriage because it **serves their needs and supports their values and dreams**.
- Marriage is said to be the beginning—the **beginning of the family**.

**What can we learn from marriage rites in Christianity?**

- Questions are asked about the **couples' faithfulness** to one another and their **willingness to bring up children in their faith**.
- The **vows are made and the rings are exchanged**.
- Liturgy of the Eucharist: gifts are presented and the altar is prepared.
- The **Eucharist prayer** is said.

What can we learn from marriage rites in Islam?

- Normally, the ceremony consists of **reading from the Qur'an**
- The **exchange of vows** in front of witnesses for both partners.
- No special religious official is necessary, but **often the Imam is present** and performs the ceremony.
- A short sermon may be given.

Key Vocabulary

MARRIAGE - *the legally or formally recognized union of two people as partners in a personal relationship*

rites - *a religious or other ceremony or act*

RITUALS - *a sequence of activities involving gestures, words, actions, or objects, performed in a sequestered place and according to a set sequence.*

PROMISES - *a declaration or assurance that one will do something or that a particular thing will happen.*

COMMITMENT - *an agreement or pledge to do something in the future*

What can we learn from marriage rites in Hinduism?

- There is **no single standard Hindu marriage ceremony**.
- There is considerable flexibility within each ritual and variation **reflects family traditions, local traditions, resources of the families and other factors**.
- However, three key rituals are predominantly seen: **Kanyadana, Panigrahana and Saptapadi**.

What can we learn from marriage rites in Judaism?

While wedding ceremonies vary, common features of a Jewish wedding include:

- a ketubah (marriage contract) which is signed by two witnesses.
- a chuppah (or huppah; wedding canopy),
- a ring owned by the groom that is given to the bride under the canopy, and the breaking of a glass.

How easy is it to keep a promise? You need a number of skills in order to make and keep a promise: **commitment, trust, honesty, willpower, enthusiasm, respect**