749 - Wants to embrace Islam but has a girlfriend and children

the question

Hello, my name is XXXX, and I have decided to embrace Islam as my way of life..
However my girlfriend and soon to be wife has embraced christianity for her way life and for our two children..
I have no problem with her faith, but she always wants me to go to church with them, and sometimes I do to keep the peace. But I'm not sure how I should handle this reguest after I have become a muslim and have embraced Islam..
Can I still attend her church services's from time to time? How do I handle this dilemma..
She seems to be supportive of my decision to embrace Islam, but Like many others including myself. Untill I did my own research and discovered this magnificent way of life. She's a bit apprehensive..
Please guide me in the ways of Islam, so as not to hurt our family relationship..
Thank you..

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

First of all, you should hasten to enter Islam, which is easy to do. An explanation of what is involved may be found under Question 114. (See also Questions 122, 158 and 177).

Secondly, if this lady becomes a Muslim or one of the People of the Book (Christian or Jewish), repents to Allaah for the forbidden relationship, and remains chaste, then it is permissible for you to marry her.

Thirdly, the children who were born to this woman outside of marriage are not your children; they cannot take your name and must take her name. However, this should not prevent you from treating them kindly, taking care of them and spending on them. In the future, you should try to

call them and their mother to Islaam.

Fourthly, going to her church and attending rituals of kufr is not advisable, because of the possible negative consequences. We advise you not to do that, but this should not be any obstacle to your entering Islam. If you were to say that it is a choice of either embracing Islam and going to the church with her, or not embracing Islam at all, we would definitely tell you to embrace Islam. But we would like you to think of the meaning of these two soorahs of the Qur'aan (interpretation of the meanings):

"Say: He is Allaah, (the) One.
Allaah-us-Samad (The Self-Sufficient Master, Whom all creatures need; He neither eats nor drinks).
He begets not nor was He begotten;
And there is none co-equal or comparable unto Him."
[al-Ikhlaas 112:1-4]

"Say: O Kaafiroon (disbelievers in Allaah, in His Oneness, etc.)!
I worship not that which you worship,
Nor will you worship that which I worship.
And I shall not worship that which you are worshipping.
Nor will you worship that which I worship
To you be your religion, and to me my religion (Islaamic monotheism)."
[al-Kaafiroon 109:1-6]
Finally I advise you, a wise man who is striving to make the right choice, hasten to enter Islam and practise it: Allaah will help you to overcome all obstacles. May Allaah take care of you.