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INVESTIGATING DIVERSITY

Exploring Race, Gender, and Unity in the Adventist Church

MARCH 19, 2019 BY GIA ARROYO

Mixed Religious Households



By Gia Arroyo

Growing up in a household that is split religiously is never an easy thing. My mother went through a situation like this at home. Although her parents were both Christian, it was still difficult living with a Seventh-day Adventist mom and Pentecostal dad.

Wanting to see how common this is, I decided to research it online. According to a Pew Research Center study done in 2016, “roughly one-in-five U.S. adults were raised with a mixed religious background.”

The research center also discovered that 48 percent of children who grew up in a two-religion household are more likely to follow their mother’s faith.

Millennials more likely to have been raised in households with mixed religious identities

	Silent / Greatest gen. (born before 1946)	Baby Boomer (b. 1946- 1964)	Gen. X (b. 1965- 1980)	Millennial (b. 1981- 1996)
	%	%	%	%
Raised by two people w/different religions	13	19	20	27
Both religiously affiliated	6	9	8	12
One Protestant, one Catholic	5	6	6	7
Other combination	1	2	2	5
One religiously affiliated, one unaffiliated	8	11	12	15
One Protestant, one unaffiliated	5	8	7	8
One Catholic, one unaffiliated	2	3	3	5
One other religion, one unaffiliated	0	0	2	1
Raised in single religious background	87	81	80	73
By two parents	77	69	64	56
Both Protestant	48	40	30	24
Both Catholic	23	22	23	18
Both other religion	3	5	7	8
Both unaffiliated	3	3	5	6
By single parent	9	12	16	17
Who was Protestant	7	6	8	8
Who was Catholic	1	4	5	5
Who identified with other religion	1	0	1	1
Who was unaffiliated	1	1	2	3
	100	100	100	100

Note: All results repercentaged to exclude nonresponse.
Source: 2014 Religious Landscape Study recontact survey conducted March 17-May 6, 2015.
"One-in-Five U.S. Adults Were Raised in Interfaith Homes"
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Those from mixed religious backgrounds more likely to adopt mother’s religion as their own

Based on those from religiously mixed backgrounds raised by two biological or adoptive parents

	Currently Identify with ...		
	... mother’s religion	... father’s religion	... neither
All from religiously mixed backgrounds	48%	28	24
Mother more responsible for religious upbringing	59	23	18
Father more responsible/both equally	35	35	30

Note: Religiously mixed backgrounds includes being raised by two parents (biological or adoptive) who belonged to different religions or one parent who was religiously affiliated and one parent who was unaffiliated. Results repercentaged to exclude nonresponse.
Source: 2014 Religious Landscape Study recontact survey conducted March 17-May 6, 2015.
"One-in-Five U.S. Adults Were Raised in Interfaith Homes"

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While researching this information, I remembered that my roommate, Shirali Pathak and her older sister, Prianca, grew up in a mixed religious household. They were raised by a Seventh-day Adventist mother and Hindu father.

“My dad not only wanted us to keep his values, as well as my mom’s,” said Shirali. “We had a choice to make.”

Sabbaths were fun for Shirali. Being able to go to church and enjoy Adventures/Pathfinders is a memory that she’s fond of. The majority of her schooling has

been in the Adventist education system. Prior to entering college, her father did not mind that she was in an SDA school.

The issues arose when Shirali and Prianca decided to come to Southern.

“My dad was very against it 'cause he wanted us to be home, and he didn't understand why we wanted to continue going to an Adventist school,” she said.

Because of this, supporting Shirali and her sister financially for school has fallen on their mother, she said. Although it is difficult sometimes, when the topic of religion comes up, Shirali remains thankful that her father is understanding and respects her decision of being a Christian.

 **GENERAL**