

Abstract

This study examined the inter-relationships among marital outcomes, inter-spouse interaction, and religiosity among Hong Kong Chinese. A questionnaire survey was done onto 88 Christian and non-Christian couples (44 each) plus 2 more wives in each group. Compared to non-Christians, Christian wives had significantly better marital satisfaction and adjustment, but Christian husbands were significantly better in marital adjustment only. Christian husbands had higher marital intimacy, commitment, and congruence; but Christian wives perceived higher regard and congruence than non-Christians. Different sub-groups had unique marital interaction variables as predictors of marital outcome. For Christian husbands, intrinsic religious orientation predicted marital adjustment, with 33% of its effect mediated through empathy. However, none of the religiosity variables adopted predicted marital outcome for Christian wives.