

Family is something that sticks with a person from the day they are born to the day they die. As children grow, ~~from kindergarden to elementary school, elementary~~ they often find themselves making a difficult choice of where family should sit in a list of things most important to them.

In all cultures this decision is a weighty one, as it encompasses many different decisions later down the road for a person, from who they spend most time with to who is invited to their wedding. ~~Either~~ It is a choice of either-or, as neither can be ~~a top pri~~ the top priority all of the time.

Importantly, children are not children forever. They grow, and eventually become self-reliant. Due to this simple fact, family becomes less important than friends as children grow up. Children become teens, and teens become young adults and often either leave the house to ~~to~~ further their education or to pursue their career. Over time, it is only natural that new classmates, coworkers, or neighbors become more important than family, if not only by proximity alone. A college student moving ~~to~~ a great distance away from her family will likely see her dorm-mate and best friend as more important in her life than her brother still back at home.

Religion plays an ~~extremly~~ extremely large part in many people's family lives, from going to church each week to observing religious ~~holidays~~ holidays and events together, faith in a certain ~~belif~~ belief system can bring families together. However, it is also well-known to tear them apart. Young people are commonly stereotyped as having strong beliefs, and often these beliefs can be in conflict or sometimes directly opposed to the religion of their family. If a gay man ~~wt~~ were to come out as a homosexual to his Catholic family, they likely would not ~~see~~ be accepting of him, as they firmly believe

that man shall not lie with man. In this situation, it is far more logical for the man to view his accepting friends as more important to him than his intolerant family. He relied on them in his youth, but no longer needs ~~them~~ them in his life. Friends are often what family cannot be.

42 When a child is born, it has no choice on the parents it is born to. A toddler has no say in whether or not their parents will bring a younger sibling into their life. However, as children grow, they are able to ~~discover~~ find people that they want in their lives. A teenage girl could be born to parents that would much prefer a son, but they did not choose their daughter and their daughter did not choose them. On the contrary, friends are chosen people to spend time and life with—much more important than family.

- Different cultures around the world treat the idea of the family very differently. For instance, a Japanese man may never be able to put anyone above his family due to the culture and society he lives in, regardless of who he spends time with as he grows older. Thus, friendships are not more important than family, as according to cultural and social norms.

Other than cultural differences and what is expected of a person, there is a factor far stronger tying the child to its family: love. A child is cared for from the moment it enters the world to ~~far~~ long after it's left. It is immoral to ~~put those~~ for someone to put those who raised them, ~~are~~ cherished them, and ~~it~~ financially supported them below mere friends that come and go with time. An older brother who has been there for his sibling since birth is vastly more important to them than some fair-weather friend from school.

Question Part

69		<p>The importance of family Overall, the family the importance of friendships and how compared to the importance of the family is a complicated issue. As children grow, they must decide where their friends and family sit on their list of priorities. Often, for a multitude of reasons including independence, tolerance, and free-will, friendships do become more important than family. Although some cultures expect differently, or may view such a standpoint as a betrayal to a familie family's love, the blood of the covenant is thicker than the water of the womb.</p>
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