

"Holy Matrimony or Government Sanctioned Marriage?"

by Doug Hamilton Date: June 2013

This month the United States Supreme Court will be issuing an important decision concerning marriage law for our nation. At stake is the imposition of forced acceptance of national gay marriage upon every state of the union even if that state government has clearly defined the union between one man and one woman. Perhaps they will kick the can down the road a little further by sending it back to the lower court. They might even strike it down altogether. In any case our nation will soon find out and likely be forced to live with the consequences of forcing something that is against the Christian roots of our country.

The covenant of marriage in America has been under serious assault for the last fifty years as we nationally push God out of the culture. There was a simpler time in our history when marriage more resembled the Biblical point of view that is favored by God. Those who originally fled the oppressive kingdoms of Europe and came to America rejected the requirement of a religious theocratic ceremony and rules. It was instituted under Catholicism and later adopted by the Church of England. This imposed on the people the more elaborate government regulated marriages with ceremonies becoming the norm. Without the official blessing of the royal theocracy, there would have not been recognition of the matrimony for couples. The early Christian colonists read the Bible and came to the conclusion that marriage was between a man and woman in the presence of God according to His standards as demonstrated at the beginning of the Bible in Genesis chapter two.

- Genesis 2:23-24 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." ²⁴ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

They did not want something as important marriage dictated by the religiously warped governments of the day. They desired to follow what the Bible taught because man tends to mess-up things. Their marriages more resembled what we would call today a Common-law Marriage. They learned this from the above text in verse 24. Their ceremonies had few guests and none of the elaborate ceremonies or rituals that we have today. It was simply One Man and One Woman agreeing before the eyes of God and a couple witnesses on three basic fundamentals of the marital covenant.

1. The "*man shall leave his mother and father*" -They were a **Family Relationship**.
 - a. Before there were children, in-laws and other extended members of the family unit, there was just one man and one woman. They made up the

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first family. No longer would Adam be a single bachelor, but would join to this woman and would be viewed through the eyes of God as a family.

- b. Often in marriage we foolishly allow others to come between us and our spouses.
 - i. Sometimes it is the in-laws that butt into the relationship. These meddling moments tend to be then origin of all the mother-in-law jokes. (One cannibal says to the other: "I can't stand my mother-in-law." The other says: "Why don't you just eat the vegetables?")
 - ii. It is not uncommon when a spouse might put the children ahead of the other. Children are a gift from the Lord, but are an extension of the family unit. Both the husband and the wife must not be divided by the kids, for it serves nobody well in the entire family.
 - iii. Occasionally we allow our friends to interfere in our marriage unit. If you are spending more quality time with your buddies or girlfriends than you are your spouse, then you are not honoring this part of the marriage covenant.
 - iv. We also tend to allow our career to interfere in our marital agreement. Countless marriages have ended because one or both spouses pursued their occupation ahead of their marriage.
 - c. Being in a Christian marriage means that you are going to put your spouse in the most unique position in your life, for nobody on earth is in a higher relationship than them in God's eyes.
2. *"He shall be joined to his wife..."* -They were in a **Life-long Relationship**.
- a. The key part of the phrase is JOINED. When Jesus quoted this passage in Matthew 19:6, He used the Greek word κολλάω, meaning "to join fast together, to glue, cement. It was a common word of carpenters, like Jesus, to describe the joining together of two portions of wood in making a piece of furniture like a table or bench. It would function as one piece of wood for the life of the furnishing.
 - b. Matrimony before God is not intended to be a temporary agreement between two people, but a life-long covenant until death do them part. The word "divorce" should never be part of your vocabulary, for that would only begin to chip away and the foundation.
 - i. If you are having money problems, remember that you married for richer and for poorer.
 - ii. If there is illness that is damaging your matrimony, remember that you married for sickness and in health.
 - iii. If you have been going through some bad times in the marriage, then remember that you married for good times and the bad times.

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- c. When Christians marry, they both understand that they are in it for life, for both are under the arrangement of God. Divorce among a Christian couple is only available in cases of infidelity, but even then there should be a bold attempt to work it out. Other than that, Paul confirms what Jesus did, that the Christian wife should not leave her Christian husband and that the Christian husband should not divorce his wife (1 Corinthians 7:10-11).
- d. This is why it is important for a Christian to marry another Christian instead of an unbeliever.
 - i. 2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?
 - ii. Together you both want to be on the same page as God concerning the marriage. This is how you put the HOLY in the Matrimony.
- 3. *"The two shall become one flesh."* -They were to be in a **Sexual Relationship**.
 - a. Paul would later use the same phrase in describing the immoral sexual liaisons between a man and a prostitute. 1 Corinthians 6:16 *"Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, "THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH."* One-fleshing is a sexual component of marriage, not outside of marriage.
 - b. God knows the biological desires of humankind, including the intimacy that most people desire. He did not tempt us above that we are able (1 Cor 10:13), but provided a way to escape by giving us holy matrimony. According to God this intimacy is expected in marriage, the requirement to surrender ourselves to to our spouse and vice-versa. *1 Corinthians 7:3 The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband.*
 - c. When this part of the relationship is violated, it disrupts the holiness of the matrimonial agreement with feelings of betrayal and pain. A Christian couple must always keep themselves only unto each other as long as they both shall live. Jesus was so serious about this that He decreed this the only permissible reason to divorce and marry another.
 - i. *Matthew 19:9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."*
 - d. The sexual relationship of marriage makes possible that children may and likely will come. It is a natural blessing from God, for He invented biology, not us. Together the mother and father will hopefully bring a balance to the children through their parenthood.
 - i. The husband models a sacrificial love for his wife as Christ laid down His life for the church. She is to model submission to the

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husband's leadership just like the church submits to Christ as her Leader.

- ii. *Ephesians 5:31-33 FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.* ³² *This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.* ³³ *Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.*
- iii. Their children, the natural result of the sexual union, will hopefully learn this as it is modeled in the home, passing it down to the next generation not only in their own lineage, but also to society.

Matrimony before the eyes of God is intended to be a Family Relationship, a Life-long Relationship and a Sexual Relationship. No other agreement in the history of mankind carries with it all three unique terms and conditions. We will all enter many agreements in our life time like buying a car or home on payments, attending a college, going into a business or signing up for military service. None of those carry these carry the same three terms as marriage.

State Marriage Laws of the Past

Our original marriage licenses of the governments reflected these principles which were based on Christian principles. Marriage was held high in the eyes of the laws in our country only 50 years ago.

Fault Divorce

In the last few decades, if a person wanted to divorce their spouse, there had to be fault established. The judge would investigate which one of the two were cheating on each other and causing the friction. Perhaps the wife was no longer willing to have relations. Some states said if a husband was convicted of murder and locked in prison for the rest of life. In whatever case, the guilty party in such instances would pay dearly economically, losing most of what they had in favor of the other.

Pro-Marriage Protections

- Most states had laws on the books against philandering. That made it a crime to even proposition a married woman and the result was jail with a fine.
- Bigamy (marrying another while already married) and polygamy (marrying more than one wife) were on the books. The lawmakers simply went back to the same principle which Jesus taught, one man and one woman for life.

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Today the marriage certificate is not worth of the paper it is written upon.

There was a time in this country that your wedding license from the government meant something, but as society has turned their back on God, so goes the marriage.

No Fault Divorce

Since 1969, starting with California and a push from women's liberation groups, all 50 states have no-fault divorce. If you want to get out of your married, it's NO-FAULT on either party. This made marriage cheap and never punished the guilty party. If a wife was a good wife and the husband a philanderer, this made it a 50/50 split instead of a 90/10, punishing the woman and the children.

Sexual Immorality

Since there is no personal responsibility or accountability, it was now time for free sex, sex before marriage, adultery, fornication, pornography and other open marriage concepts.

Pre-nuptial Agreements

Since marriage is no longer the highest covenant as recognized by government, "pre-nups" became popular. People having a pre-nuptial agreement are saying "I will love you for the rest of your life, but just in case I change my mind then I want to keep what I have to myself."

Gay Marriage

Anyone who reads the Bible knows that homosexuality is a sin in the eyes of God. Our laws in this country even less than two decades ago still held this behavior a crime against nature. We have godless states throughout the country that revere this perversity to the point of marriage. Men with men and women with women might soon be the law of the United States Supreme Court in less than two weeks.

Group Marriage

If marriage does not mean something, then it means nothing. As we speak, there are groups throughout the country that are lobbying for laws for group marriage. Muslims and Mormons wanting polygamy. Hippies wanting communal group marriage to have orgiastic behaviors. Homosexual groups lobbying for lowering the age of consent down to eight years. Some people are even wanting to marry their pets!

Conclusion: Where do we go from here?

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Is there any reason why the marriage rates in our country are dropping? Why would you want this government sanctioned confusion in your life? As a minister, I don't and I won't. In fact from here on out I refuse to sign a government sanctioned marriage certificate unless the couple can sign my Certificate of Holy Matrimony. There is nothing redeemable any more about your wedding license, for it is pretty much useless except for being your sworn testimony that you are taking a spouse and will be on the hook for any of the children you bring into the world. The Certificate of Holy Matrimony holds to what God says about marriage.

Certificate of Holy Matrimony

On this date, the _____ of _____ in the year _____ and at this location of _____, we hereby agree to the terms and conditions of holy matrimony as spelled out by the word of God. Like the very first marriage recorded in Genesis 2:24, we understand this agreement is between one man and one woman. In the eyes of the Creator, together we will form a new family of society with life-long intentions and monogamy. We agree that husband is the leader of this family, demonstrating his willingness to die for her through display of his love on a daily basis. We also agree for her to yield to his leadership and give him the love, respect and honor due a husband, further developing him into a better leader. Together we will be a model of Christ and His Church for all the world to see. We hereby sign this before the eyes of each other, our minister and most of all God.

Signature of the Groom: _____

Signature of the Bride: _____

Signatures of Minister: _____

In Closing:

I am convinced if we hold to God's standard of marriage instead of man's watered down version, we will be happier, more stable and a greater light to the world around us. If you are not willing to sign this document first, then do not come to me for your wedding. No matter what the Supreme Court decides this month, I have made my decision in advance.