

# Marriage: What Christians Should Know

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Author: Christopher J. E. Johnson

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I have been condemned many times, and even blacklisted, by pastors and other Christians over this issue, and all for the fact that I want Christians to stand on the Word of God concerning marriage. Some of you might find that hard to believe, but I pray you would read over this and hear me out.

What I'm going to talk about in this article, I have never personally heard this preached from the pulpits of a church building, and that makes sense after realizing that the "higher education" most preachers receive from their Bible colleges teaches them to adopt so much paganism and abominations into the church. This worldly way of thinking, the rudiments (first teachings) of the world, would be extraordinarily difficult, if not impossible, to remove from church buildings because most of them are so attached the traditions of men.

*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*

*-Colossians 2:8*

Many Christians and heathens alike adhere to the traditions of men, rather than the Word of God. We tend to look for other men to rule over us and judge us, rather than have God rule over us and judge us.

*It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.*

*-Psalm 118:8*

*Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.*

*-Acts 5:29*

Mankind tends to hold on to worldly traditions with great fervor, and the average church-goer is no exception. Jesus Christ directly scolded the traditions of men when they conflict with the Word of God.

*But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?... Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*

*-Matthew 15:3-6*

This is not in the Bible because God thought it would be something cute to read in a devotional calendar; it's a direct rebuke of men who hold the traditions of the world first and foremost in their hearts. The Lord Jesus Christ says it is vanity that they would feign themselves to worship Him just to impress other people, and if you begin to question their traditions in the church buildings, you're likely to be shunned out of them, just as my wife and I (and many others who have written our ministry) have experienced.

Though my life is not a pure textbook example of how one should live, because I err and learn new things all the time where I must reshape my life to match the Word of God, but we all must be ever watchful to see if all our actions, and all our words, are pleasing to our Lord Jesus Christ. We shouldn't participate in traditions just because someone prestigious (like a pastor) told us we were supposed to.

*And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.*

*-1 John 3:22*

*But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.*

*-1 Thessalonians 2:4*

It's also important that we don't participate in traditions just because it's something we personally desire to do. We need to check the Word of God to see if it matches what we have been taught by books, movies, television shows, radio broadcasts, newspapers, classrooms, church buildings, and sometimes even our own parents.

*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

*-1 Corinthians 2:14*

Typically, young girls are trained to seek after her glorious wedding day, binding her to her groom in a wedding ceremony. The impression is heavily weighed upon little girls that this is to be *THE* most important day of her life (because being born-again typically takes a back seat to tradition), and she must make sure to have a dress, a ring, a church to be married, a pastor marry them, marriage vows, special songs, sign your marriage license, and all the expensive tid-bits (limousines, cakes, hotels, etc) that go along with the traditions of a typical marriage ceremony, and little girls are trained to spend her waking days dreaming of this moment.

Do we get so wrapped up in the busy preparations that we never stop to consider where all these traditions came from? Over the past decade, I asked a number of Christians where we get these marriage traditions from, and it was very strange that no one had an answer. Most of the people I talked to just responded with a question, "Well, isn't all this in the Bible somewhere?" The average Christian has no clue what they are really doing, nor why, but do these things anyway without any concerns about if it is pleasing to our Lord Jesus Christ, and worse still, the so-called "authority figures" in the church buildings never bother to teach or understand it themselves.

If we are ignorant about marriage traditions, how do we know we are doing that which is pleasing in the sight of the Lord Jesus Christ?

## Wedding Rings



The wedding ring is one of the most common symbols of marriage known to man today, so common that most church-goers will condemn a Christian if he/she doesn't have one. However, where did this idea of wedding rings come from? It certainly isn't from the Bible because that's never mentioned in marriage. In fact, the first mention of a finger ring in the Bible comes from Egypt, a well-known source of paganism.

*And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;*

*-Genesis 41:42*

It is the heathen nations that always put the emphasis on gold, silver, and fine jewelry, but Christians were not supposed to put emphasis on such things. The New Testament Scripture defines these things as vanity and pride.

*My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?*

*-James 2:1-4*

*In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;*

*-1 Timothy 2:9*

Over the years, I've had Christians write me in objection to this, claiming that the Lord Jesus Christ thought rings were just fine, and they use the parable of the prodigal son as an example:

*But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:*

*-Luke 15:22*

First of all, this is a parable to gain understanding about forgiveness and repentance, not a specific doctrine about the usage of rings. As we just read in James, the ring is a symbol of goodly apparel that would be placed on those who have a seat of honor, which the parable was showing us the father giving the son a seat of honor because he was repentant and returned to him. I should also emphasize that nowhere in Luke 15 is the Bible giving us justification for wedding rings in

a marriage.

To discern whether or not the wedding rings are good or evil, we have to look at the origin of it. As with most pagan traditions, it all got started by church-goers adopting the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church:

"Catholicism adopted the use of rings from the pagan world, and during the Middle Ages, it became customary for a bishop to receive a ring as part of the ceremony of consecration... Engagement rings in the Catholic Church have been given since inception as was adopted from ancient pagan times. One type, set with a diamond became popular in the 15th century. The wearing of wedding rings is also an ancient pagan tradition, and the gold band has been popular since the 16th century. In Western society today, a married woman often wears both an engagement ring and a wedding band, and a married man often wears a wedding band. This pagan tradition has been legitimised in the church by the Papal, who sees the ring as having a mysterious power that binds people to oaths they take."

-Dong Gadu, *The Church in the End Time: Conflict Between Truth and Falsehood*, AuthorHouse, 2006, p. 46, ISBN: 9781420823639

So our modern society got it from the Catholic Church, who in turn got it from pagan tradition:

"The wedding ring also has its origin in pagan times. According to the ancient Greeks, Prometheus [titan who created mankind] made the first wedding band out of smelted metal for strength and endurance. The unbroken circle was believed to signify the harmony of marriage... Modern-day adaptations of the many pagan rites have become big business! Photographers, jewelers, musicians, and florists have all prospered from ancient customs."

-Abigail Kirsch, *The Bride and Groom's First Cookbook*, Doubleday, 1996, p. 4, ISBN: 9780385476355

This author, who was a popular medium/psychic (divination, necromancy, and sorcery), and a Catholic school teacher for 18 years, explains:

"Our world is filled with pagan symbols--take, for example, the wedding band. It was believed that if bad luck came to a married couple, it would get trapped in a circle (the ring), and it would just stay there, running in a circle for eternity."

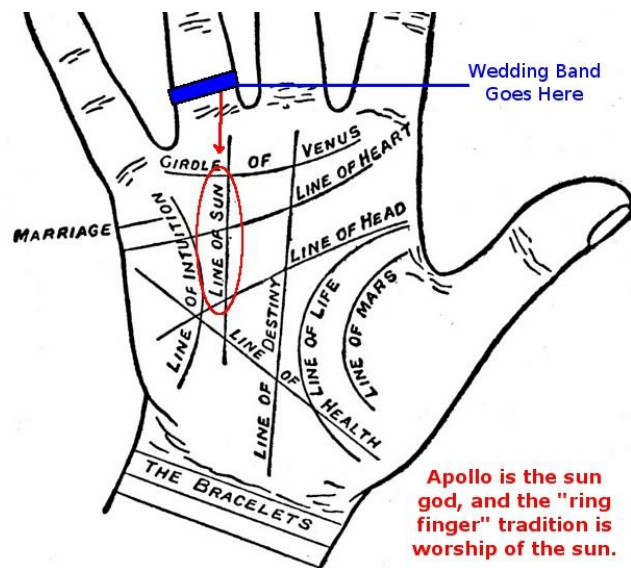
-Sylvia Browne, *Secrets and Mysteries of the Word*, Hay House Inc, 2006, p. 4, ISBN: 9781401922504

This witch author, whose books her husband stated has helped gay couples in their "marriage," says that pagan rituals can also call for astrological birthstones to be placed in the rings to give specific magical properties:

"There are several ring choices besides the traditional engagement ring and wedding band that you see most often today. Read the following suggestions for different types of precious and semiprecious stones that you could incorporate into your engagement ring, wedding band, necklace, bracelet, or anklet, given here with their magickal properties."

-Kendra V. Hovey, *Passages Handfasting: A Pagan Guide to Commitment Rituals*, Adams Media, 2007, p. 145, ISBN: 9781440516368; Author's husband statements:

[goodreads.com/review/show/893672232?book\_show\_action=true&from\_review\_page=1]



The wedding ring is esteemed in many witch covens above other jewelry for its "magick" properties:

"In most cases, watches and random jewelry should be removed before practicing magick... Wedding rings are worn during the practice of magick, as they are considered sacred and blessed."

-Aislin, *Ashling Wicca: Book 1*, Lulu.com, 2012, p. 111, ISBN: 9781105350108

According to pagan sources, the "ring finger" that the wedding ring is supposed to adorn is based on what is called "palmistry," which is founded in witchcraft.

"Palmistry's history goes back to Aristotle and the ancient Greeks. It is an ancient science inspired by alchemy, astronomy and magick. In palmistry, the ring finger relates to matters of the heart and is ruled by the god Apollo. It was once thought a large vein passed from the third finger straight to this mighty organ,

kind of like an internal power cord. The left hand being slightly closer than the right, made it the most direct route to the heart."

-Michelle C. Bond, "The Urban Shaman - 8 Modern Wedding Practices Which Originated from Pagan Beliefs," Pagan Edge Magazine, retrieved Aug 12, 2013, [www.paganedge.com]

This author has practiced palmistry for over 40 years:

*"There are four mounts at the base of the fingers. Mount of Jupiter under the Index finger, Mount of Saturn under the middle finger, Mount of Apollo or Sun under the ring finger, Mount of Mercury under the little finger."*

-Dayanand Ambawade, *All the Secrets of Palmistry: For Profession and Popularity*, Diamond Pocket Books, 2015, ISBN: 9788128822735

The usage of wedding rings comes back to basic heathen worship of the sun, but very few church-goers are willing to learn and understand what these symbols mean, and fewer still will actually sanctify themselves from the pagan practices. Most of them will simply make excuses to justify the idolatry, because having to admit we have done wrong in the sight of God, and receive correction, is often too grievous to those who are pridefully acclimated to their traditions.

*Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die.*

-Proverbs 15:10

*Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.*

-1 Corinthians 10:14

There are many Christians out there who have exchanged wedding rings in a ceremony out of ignorance, and that's understandable. However, if you're a Christian, and your wedding rings are too emotionally valuable for you to let go of for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ and staying true to His Word, perhaps it's time for a bit of self-examination.

*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*

-2 Corinthians 13:5

Others will be afraid of what their family will think of them for sanctifying themselves from the paganism, but the Lord Jesus Christ says:

*For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*

-Matthew 10:35-37

## Bridal Bouquets

The group of flowers the bride holds was started not for beauty, but as a collection of specific flowers and herbs that were said to hold magical properties, give special "luck," and invoke superstitions that were supposed to ward off evil spirits.

*"The Origin of the bridal bouquet goes all the way back to the ancient belief that strong-smelling spices and herbs would prevent evil spirits from ruining things. Her bridesmaids often follow suit, and even the flower girls have a specific role to shower all of the guests with petals from the chosen variety of flower.*

*As Pagans, we are not limited to the colors, smells, and magickal uses of flowers. We can also incorporate the colors, smells and magickal uses of herbs. You are free to use traditional flowers, magickal herbs, or a combination of the two for a spectacular display of fragrance, color, and magick."*

-Kendra V. Hovey, *Passages Handfasting: A Pagan Guide to Commitment Rituals*, Adams Media, 2007, p. 153, ISBN: 9781440516368



The flower selections were also selected for "magick" fertility properties:

*"The ancients carried bouquets of herbs for several reasons... bridal bouquets were also part of pagan fertility rituals. In addition, many bouquets were designed to keep evil spirits at bay. Chives and garlic, being thought most advantageous for this purpose, were commonly found in bridal bouquets."*

-Kristina Seleshanko, *Carry Me Over the Threshold*, Zondervan, 2009, p. 29, ISBN: 9780310861256





The tradition of having a "flower girl" spreading out rose petals down the aisle of a typically wedding ceremony was taken from the Wiccan ceremony of casting spells in a magic circle known as "the rite of handfasting:"

*"Starting at the eastern-most point of where the circle will be cast, the Flower Girls (Maidens) each stand with a basket of rose petals... The rose petals are a symbol of our Lady and the Flower Maidens a symbol of youth... When all is ready, the groom rings a bell, opens the book containing the wedding vows, and lights a candle to announce the beginning of the rite."*

-A.J. Drew, *Wicca for Couples: Making Magick Together*, Career Press, 2002, p. 126, ISBN: 9781564146205; Drew has authored many books on Wicca and hosts the annual Real Witches Ball for PaganNation.com.

The root of this ritual are the same, even when they vary from culture to culture. No matter which way one may try to change it, it's roots are in witchcraft:

*"The couple would either be carried by their [witch] coven members or would ride in a small cart, pulled by the coveners, a pony, or even a goat. Flowers, a sign of fertility, would be plentiful both on the cart, carried by the processioners, and strewn along the way. The procession will end up at the site of the Wiccan Circle."*

-Raymond Buckland, *Wicca for Life: The Way of the Craft -- From Birth to Summerland*, Citadel Press, 2003, p. 159, ISBN: 9780806524559; Buckland has authored many books on witchcraft, and speaks internationally on the subject.

The typical church-goer, especially women, will try to justify themselves (because they're desperate to defend their favorite pagan rituals) by saying, "we just used some pretty flowers that matched colors." The Universal Life Church, who uses the following banner ad on their website...



...is at least willing to be more honest the subject, and where they stand on the matter:

*"Colors have great symbolism in paganism, with slightly different meanings from one faith to another... Dress should be elegant, but comfortable, made of natural fibers. It is perfectly acceptable to dress in the romantic styles of former times, to create a fairytale atmosphere... Choose colors to match the season, or that traditionally mean new beginnings, such as white or green. Careful research is necessary here. For example, it is bad luck to wear green at an Irish wedding, particularly for the bride. You may need incense and anointing oils in appropriate scents, candles in appropriate colors, and some kind of beautiful cord, ribbon or tie if you are planning on a handfasting ritual."*

-Universal Life Church, "Wedding Officiant Training: How to Perform a Pagan Wedding," retrieved Aug 21, 2013, [<http://www.ulcweddingofficiants.com/officiant-training/how-to-perform-a-pagan-wedding>]

It's sad that I see more honesty from pagans than I do from most church-goers (who claim to be born-again) on this matter:

*"Consider using petals from flowers that correspond to the bride's and groom's astrological signs... Those flowers mingling and falling to the ground together as a symbol of the union being marked."*

-A.J. Drew, *A Wiccan Bible: Exploring the Mysteries of the Craft from Birth to Summerland*, Career Press, 2003, p. 128, ISBN: 9781564146663; Drew has authored many books on Wicca and hosts the annual Real Witches Ball for PaganNation.com.

*Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.*

-Jeremiah 10:2

But many church-goers will not see the evil in these traditions because they are spiritually discerned:

*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

-1 Corinthians 2:14

It doesn't matter how many excuses a church-goer wants to make; witchcraft is still witchcraft.

*This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would... Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft... and such like: of the which I*

tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

-Galatians 5:16-21

When we become justified through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we should be careful not to turn to heathen practices, just because they might give us a good feeling. Tradition does not automatically make our actions Biblical, and worse still, many church-goers remain blissfully unaware that there are seducing spirits surrounding these traditions, taking the Lord's name in vain by calling their traditions "Christian."

## Tossing Bouquet & Garters



The bride of a typical modern wedding is always shown throwing her bouquet of flowers/herbs over her shoulder to a group of onlookers eager to take it. The pagan superstition of giving luck to the next person to be married or "fall in love" is attached to this tradition, as well as the groom's throwing of the garter.

*"The pagan bride used to take a bouquet of herbs and garlic with her to the new home; she'd set it on fire and smoke out any evil spirits that might be lingering, then she'd toss the charred bouquet outside."*

*-Tess Ayers & Paul Brown, *The Essential Guide to Gay and Lesbian Weddings*, 3rd Edition, Workman Publishing, p. 250, ISBN: 9781615191512*

The pagan burning of certain flowers and herbs are luck charms to ward off evil spirits. This tradition evolved into the familiar tossing over the shoulder after it was adopted by the Roman Catholic Church.

One pagan ritual may be slightly different from another, and different pagans may have different reasons for the same practice, but they all stem from heathen sources:

*"The modern tradition of throwing the bridal bouquet to determine who will be the next to marry has its roots in pagan ritual from antiquity [ancient past]. The Roman bride wore a sort of woolen belt or cummerbund called a girdle... that was removed by her new husband at the conclusion of the wedding ceremony.*

*By the 17th century, brides festooned their wedding dresses with ribbons, lace, silk belts around the waist and all sorts of pen cases, knives and purses. Wedding guests scrambled to strip the hapless bride of these trophies, sometimes tearing her garters off her legs in front of the alter. The groom fared little better, since he, too, wore stockings and garters. It was to reduce this trophy hunting that the bride began to throw her bridal bouquet and the groom tossed a garter to the guests."*

*-Orange Coast Magazine, Vol. 13, No. 6, June 1987, p. 160, ISSN 0279-0483*

*Let all things be done decently and in order.*

*-1 Corinthians 14:40*

Does having the crowd rip gifts and clothes off of the bride and groom sound like something decent and in order? Of course, most church-goers would not argue with that statement, but what they do argue against is taking in those pagan traditions, adjusting them for their own lifestyles, and claiming they are delivered by Christ to do those abominations.

*Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit. Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?*

*-Jeremiah 7:8-10*

Using reagents or relics in order to gain luck is witchcraft 101 [introductory teaching], and that's what the entire throwing of bouquets and garters is all based upon:

*"In the fourteenth century, when bedding the bride was a popular custom, the unmarried men taking part in the tradition tried to snatch the bride's garter for good luck. It's believed that brides, not enjoying this manhandling, began removing their garters and flinging them at the crowd, resulting in the tradition of the garter toss. Some historians also believe that during these bedding ceremonies, unmarried women started stealing the bride's stockings in hopes of having some of the bride's good luck rub off on them. Once again, it's believed the bride preferred to remove her own clothing and started throwing her stockings at the crowd. Later, when bedding became socially unacceptable, brides tossed their bouquets to*

*the crowd instead."*

-Kristina Selshanko, *Carry Me Over the Threshold*, Zondervan, 2009, p. 54, ISBN: 9780310861256

I can already hear the excuses of church-goers: "It's just a thing we do for fun; it's not witchcraft, it doesn't mean anything." So let's say during the ceremony, the pastor decides to draw a circle on the floor and have a séance (attempting communication with the spirit world; divination, necromancy) "just for fun," would that be acceptable?

Whether a church-goer claims it to be acceptable or not is irrelevant. What we need to focus on is what God's Word tells us, and the Lord Jesus Christ prayed that we would be sanctified (set apart) from the world.

(Read "Did Christ Come to Bring Peace?" here at creationliberty.com for more details.)

*I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

*-John 17:15-17*

## Throwing Rice

Ever heard of throwing salt over your shoulder for good luck? It's a commonly known as a "superstition," but in witchcraft, it's a basic spell:

*"[H]ow often have you seen people toss spilled salt over their shoulder without a second thought? That practice comes from a superstition that tossing spilled salt over your shoulder keeps evil away, and it gives the Kitchen Witch food for thought: Why not use salt (a common table condiment) as part of her magick for protection?"*

-Marian Singer & Trish MacGregor, *The Only Book of Wiccan Spells You'll Ever Need*, Adams Media, p. 94, ISBN: 9781440542763

Most American church-goers have never been involved in Wicca at all, but those who have been born-again and come out of witchcraft understand very well that paganism is founded on rituals, and those rituals is how they perform their magic spells. Many church-goers choose to remain willingly ignorant and without understanding about their favored traditions, and refuse to take into consideration that they carry on the traditions of witches and devils.

*Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.*

*-Ecclesiates 5:1*

*Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.*

*-Proverbs 3:7*

*There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.*

*-Proverbs 30:12*

The throwing of rice in a wedding ceremony is precisely the same invocation of "luck" in the spells of salt over the shoulder. This tradition was started by heathens to invoke a devil's blessing so the couple would get pregnant:

*"Throwing rice at the couple after the wedding ceremony signifies prosperity and good luck. Italians traditionally toss sugared almonds, which are a symbol of fertility. Sometimes sugared almonds appear in the net bags on the wedding table as tokens for guests in Mediterranean countries. In the United States, wedding guests may throw small bird seed, dried flower petals, or paper confetti... Confetti is linked to the pagan tradition of throwing grain over a couple as a symbol of fertility."*

-*Sex and Society*, Marshall Cavendish Co, Vol. 3, 2010, p. 895, ISBN: 9780761479055

*"All too frequently, even faithful church members sit through a wedding as if they have forgotten all the responses and songs, participating as spectators at a show, rather than as members of a worshipping community. And much concern is shown for such superstitions as starting the wedding on the half-hour (for good luck)...*

*...and not seeing the bride before the wedding and throwing rice on the couple (an old pagan fertility symbol), none of which can claim a proper place in*





*Christian liturgy."*

-Lawrence E. Mick, *Understanding the Sacraments Today*, Liturgical Press, 2006, p. 110, ISBN: 9780814629253

The really disturbing thing about this quote is that this man is a Catholic priest. If a Catholic priest, who is not born-again in Christ, can clearly see the contradictions in the typical wedding ceremony and look upon them with disgust (strange as it is being that his church introduced them into his religion in the first place), how embarrassing is it for the true Bible-believing Christians to adorn witchcraft practices into their lives?

Some Christians will try to justify their actions by saying something silly like, "We used bird seed, not rice," which is no different than saying, "I throw pepper over my shoulder for luck, not rice; therefore my actions are justified." It's still pagan superstitions used in ritual magic; it doesn't change anything, and it seriously concerns me that so many people claiming to be Christians make excuses to justify hanging on to witchcraft.

(And yes, **this IS witchcraft!** These wedding practices are taught and described in books for witches; See Debbe Tompkins, *Witch School: Living the Wiccan Life*, Llewellyn Worldwide, 2009, ISBN: 9780738714950)

## Wedding Cake

If you believe that wedding cakes are in the traditions of ceremonies because they're tasty, think again. Cakes are often used by witches in pagan rituals to invoke spirits (devils) to do their bidding:

*"Many of today's marriage customs have pagan origins. The shared wedding cake, tossed rice, and flowers are all old bits of fertility magic."*

-Edain McCoy, *Sabbats: A Witch's Approach to Living the Old Ways*, Llewellyn Worldwide, 2002, p. 167, ISBN: 9781567186635



*"Few people are aware that the wedding cake used in modern marriage ceremonies is a relic of the symbolic corn ears worn by the bride to ensure fertility in pagan times. These corn ears were replaced by cakes that were scattered over the newly married couple as they left the church. Thus we see how a subtle magical practice, in the form of the wedding cake, has become a central part of a religious or secular ceremony that allegedly has absolutely nothing to do with magic. [i.e. Church-goers deny its pagan roots.] The pleasant custom of sending pieces of the wedding cake to friends and relatives is also a modern expression of the traditional need to share with one's friends the magic of the corn spirit."*

-Migene Gonzalez-Wippler, *The Complete Book of Spells: Ceremonies and Magic*, Llewellyn Worldwide, 1978, p. 262, ISBN: 9780875422862

The wedding cakes were even used in practices of divination:

*"The history of wedding cakes is quite long. These nuptial goodies have their origins in the ancient custom of couples ritually eating sacred foods during the marriage rite... Guests kept pieces of the cake, much as wedding guests of our own time take home slices for 'good luck.' In the Victorian era, unmarried English women placed pieces of wedding cake under their pillows for dreams of their future husbands."*

-Scott Cunningham, *Cunningham's Encyclopedia of Wicca in the Kitchen*, Llewellyn Worldwide, 2012, ISBN: 9780738717111;

Cunningham was a highly-respected 20-year veteran sorcerer, publishing more than 50 books around the topic of witchcraft.

*There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,*

*-Deuteronomy 18:10*

*And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.*

*-2 Kings 17:17*

Don't misunderstand: Cake is not evil. It doesn't have a conscience. Money is not evil, and guns are not evil, because none of these things have a conscience. It's that church-goers have a lack of conscience, and are more concerned with their feel good tradition, they could care less if what they adopted the traditions of witches.



The hypocrisy intensifies when you see signs like this carried around at protest rallies against gay marriage. Don't misunderstand, what the sign says is true, however, they are proud of themselves for walking around with a picket sign condemning sodomy, but their own marriage ceremonies were laden with witchcraft of the heathen.

Many of you out there have done these rituals in pure ignorance, trusting in your pastor to tell you what you should do. The preachers try to appear holy and righteous on the outside, but they have not cleaned up the inside, deceiving daily those who respect their person.

*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion [e.g. getting paid to perform a pagan ceremony] and excess [indulgence in sin] ... for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.*

*-Matthew 23:27*



## Wedding Vows/Oaths

When I have addressed this topic with Christians, especially women, I've seen a lot of a railing and contention come out of many of them. People get furious with me when I quote what the Lord Jesus Christ said about swearing oaths.

*Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?*

*-Galatians 4:16*

*Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt notforswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all... But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.*

*-Matthew 5:33-37*

As we covered in "[God Does Not Justify Lies](#)," swearing oaths is against the New Testament Gospel, and that includes marriage vows. I've had some women, claiming to be Christians, get very angry with me in pointing this out, and desperately seek to justify themselves by claiming that "vows" and "oaths" are not the same thing, but God's Word defines vows as swearing oaths:

*Every vow, and every binding oath to afflict the soul, her husband may establish it, or her husband may make it void.*

*-Numbers 30:2*

When first investigating this, I couldn't find the speeches read in marriage ceremonies, even though the pastor always seemed to be holding (what I thought was) a Bible in his hand. I asked a number of Christians where that was located in the Bible, but almost every time I got a response like, "I'm sure it's somewhere in there," just assuming it to be true, instead of looking for verification, which is what I wanted. The truth is that the words spoken in a marriage ceremony are *NOT* in the Bible.

The words traditionally spoken in marriage ceremonies come from a book called *The Book of Common Prayer*, and

though revised a number of times, the Anglican Church, which is pretty much a denomination of the Catholic Church (i.e. they broke off from Rome, but still kept most of the pagan Catholic practices), developed most of what we use today. *The Book of Common Prayer* contains ritual prayers for morning, evening, communion, marriage, etc, and are used as standard prayers for Catholics around the world (very [similar to Muslims](#)), despite the fact that this would easily violate the doctrines of the Lord Jesus Christ.

[But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.](#)

*-Matthew 6:7*

For example, *The Book of Common Prayer* has words to be said over someone who is sick, and that will help them get better. This is exactly the same as pagan witchcraft (like Harry Potter), where you say certain phrases and something magical is supposed to happen.

(Read "Fantasy Novels: Invitations to Hell" here at [creationliberty.com](#) for more details.)

According to Jesus Christ, *The Book of Common Prayer* is the pagan ways of the heathens that use vain repetitions. God tells us not to be like them, to learn of their ways, nor to use their ways, thereby setting a bad example to Christians, and to the rest of the world, but the typical American pastor doesn't seem to care at all whether or not he sins against Christ.

[Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.](#)

*-1 Peter 5:2-3*

[But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.](#)

*1 Corinthians 8:12*

*The Book of Common Prayer* is the book being held by preachers when they stand in front of the audience of a wedding ceremony, and many of them know full-well that most of them think these words are from the Bible, but keep that information hidden. Keep in mind, many pastors today read from this book as a guideline for the ceremony, which is why certain parts may or may not be included from one preacher to the next, and sadly, that's a practice that many have picked up when reading God's Word as well.

(Read "Dangers of Using Lexicons and Concordances" here at [creationliberty.com](#) for more details.)

Let's look at the first paragraph. I'm sure many of you will recognize some of the introduction:

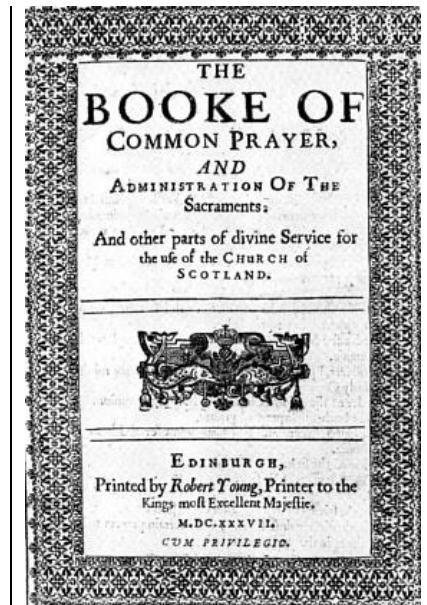
*"Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people."*

*-Book of Common Prayer: And Administration of the Sacraments and Other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church, Church Publishing Inc, 2001, p. 423, ISBN: 9780898694390*

### **Pagan Rome's Catholic Influence in Language (e.g. 'Matrimony')**

I was convicted to make a small note here that the term "Holy Matrimony" has always bothered me, and upon investigation, the term still holds a lot of confusion even for etymologists (study of word origins). The average dictionary, when looking up the word 'matrimony' will say it's marriage, which is how people typically use it today, but my concern was the origin of the word.

There are a number of words that have the Latin suffix *mony*, but the suffix itself doesn't have a particular meaning. For example, the suffix *archy* means 'rule' or 'govern', and so *apatri-archy* (patron meaning father) is an adult male-ruling position, as opposed (opposite) of a *matri-archy* (matron meaning mother), which is an adult female-ruling position. Though the prefix *patri-* (father) and *matri-* (mother) are typically used as opposites, this does not apply to



patrimony and matrimony, which has confused many researchers of word origins.

The term 'matrimony' literally means "motherhood," which is more confusing when we read *The Book of Common Prayer* saying: "the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony." How does the man enter motherhood? Even the woman doesn't enter motherhood until she conceives, so how does the marriage ceremony bring her into motherhood?

**I believe the etymologist's confusion on this matter is due to a lack of understanding about the Roman Catholic Church, and its connections to pagan Babylon.** I believe the capitalized words "Holy Matrimony," is in reference to the couple coming into a union under the authority of the pagan mother goddess, which the Catholics refer to as "Mary."

(Read "Corruptions of Christianity: Catholicism - Idolatry & Mary" here at creationliberty.com for more details.)

There are other commonly used phrases which also imply the same meaning; for example, the phrase *alma mater* in a typical dictionary means the college or university one has attended, but the word *alma* means "virgin" and *mater* means "mother." When anyone says, "That's my Alma Mater," they are literally saying, "That's my Virgin Mother," which is connected directly to the worship of the false pagan goddess of the Catholic Church (i.e. "Mary").

Since the modern day American wedding ceremony is modeled from the Catholic Church, and the Catholic Church is modeled from its pagan roots, certain phrases may not make sense to an etymologist, but they make perfect sense to a born-again Christian with Biblical discernment.

The way *The Book of Common Prayer* is worded, it gives the reader/listener the impression that the Lord Jesus Christ approved a pagan ceremony when He visited the wedding in Cana, but the Jews (when they were following the Lord God) did not participate in such pagan rituals like we do today.

*And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.*

*-John 2:1-2*

That's it; the Bible doesn't say anything else about the details of the marriage ceremony. For those of us who study the Word of God, we know the purpose of his attending the marriage was symbolic (for the Jews) of His marriage to His bride, the church, not to approve of pagan rituals.

The average preacher just happens to skip over a few parts in *The Book of Common Prayer* that I think Christians ought to know about:

*"At the Eucharist: The liturgy continues with the Offertory, at which the newly married couple may present the offerings of bread and wine... it is appropriate that the newly married couple receive Communion first, after the ministers."*

*-Book of Common Prayer: And Administration of the Sacraments and Other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church, Church Publishing Inc, 2001, p. 432, ISBN: 9780898694390*

**offertory (n): the offering of the unconsecrated elements that is made to God by the celebrant in a Eucharistic service**

(See 'offertory', Random House Dictionary, 2015, [www.dictionary.com]; See also Collins English Dictionary, 10th Edition, William Collins Sons & Co, 2009)

For those of you unfamiliar, the Eucharistic service is the abomination of transubstantiation in the Catholic Church, where they claim that they perform the "miracle" of changing wine into the literal blood of Christ, whereby they drink it for the remission of sins (i.e. works-based doctrines from hell). This shows us precisely where *The Book of Common Prayer* originated from, and why it is so important that we sanctify ourselves from such traditions.

(Read "Corruptions of Christianity: Catholicism - The Mass & Transubstantiation" here at creationliberty.com for more details.)

*"Normally, the celebrant [one who marries the couple] is a priest or bishop. Where permitted by civil law, and when no priest or bishop is available, a deacon may function as celebrant, but does not pronounce a nuptial blessing."*

*-Book of Common Prayer: And Administration of the Sacraments and Other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church, Church Publishing Inc, 2001, p. 435, ISBN: 9780898694390*

According to *The Book of Common Prayer*, your marriage cannot be blessed unless you get a priest or bishop to do it. How many heathen and Catholic rituals must a Christian see before sanctifying himself from them? Why would any Christian want to participate in a ritual designed by Rome?

## The Requirements for Marriage

If all these practices are pagan in origin, then what exactly does the Bible say we need to do to be married? First, we need to look at all the instances where marriage is talked about in the Bible, but there are far too many to cover all of them in this article. I have been through Scripture more than once, looking at all the times marriage and weddings were spoken of, reading the chapters and sections to make sure I had the proper context, and what I find very interesting is not so much what the Bible says about wedding ceremonies, but what it *DOESN'T* say about them.

I encourage others to do their own investigation, but after all the research I've done, the only prerequisites I've found in Scripture for being married is a man and woman's word that they are husband and wife. That's it. I realize this is surprising to many American church-goers who are used to the typical wedding traditions, and I realize this will bring up a flurry of questions, but let's take this one topic at a time.

Notice that I said it has to be between a man and woman, which means the sodomites attempting to have a "same-sex marriage" is futile. In our article "[Gay Marriage & Christian Hypocrisy](#)," we talked about how church-goers waste their time fighting "gay marriage" in the courts because it's not real marriage, and the problem is that church-goers have worshipped their license as the authority over their marriage, which it is nothing more than a corporate business contract. (We'll discuss a bit more on that later.)

### QUESTION: Is sexual intercourse required to be married?

I would return a question: If a man was injured in war and paralyzed from the waste down, is he not permitted to be married? If an elderly couple could no longer have sexual relations, are they not qualified to be married in the eyes of God? I've never seen a Christian (or unbeliever) ever argue against a war veteran's validity of marriage because he was unable to have sex with his wife; that's preposterous.

I'm not sure where Christians have gotten this impression, but it may be from some of the following verses:

*And Judah said unto Onan, Go in unto thy brother's wife, and marry her, and raise up seed to thy brother.*  
-Gen 38:8

*If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her.*  
-Deuteronomy 25:5

This was a custom issued by the Lord God specifically to the Jewish people, and is not reiterated in the New Testament; thus it is not a commandment that born-again Christians are to follow. Notice also that "go in unto her" and "marry her" are separated. If sexual intercourse were part of marriage, then there would be no need to separate the actions.

Remember also that sexual intercourse can take place outside of marriage. This is called fornication and adultery.

*Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.*  
-1 Corinthians 7:1-2

*But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.*  
-Matthew 5:32



If sexual intercourse were the determining factor for marriage, then any two people who have slept together would automatically be married, and that's not the case because then it would be impossible for anyone to commit fornication. Sexual intercourse between a husband and a virgin wife certainly creates a bond between them, which many couples can testify to be true, but it is not a requirement for marriage.

**QUESTION: Is the father giving away his daughter a prerequisite for marriage?**

I would return a question: If a woman's father has died, is she no longer eligible for marriage? Can an orphaned girl not marry because she has no one to give her away? The giving away of a woman in the Bible, by the father to the new husband, always coincided with some sort of dowry payment, which served two functions, one to honor the father's family, and the second as evidence he had the means to provide for a wife.

*And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter.*  
-Genesis 29:18

This is an example of a dowry payment, and one of the largest sums ever paid in Scripture for a wife. The point is that the father has raised his daughters under his wealth of investment and care, and when he is providing for her, he ought to have a say in who she marries.

On the other hand, in our society today, women rarely get married so early as they did in the Old Testament, and back then, men did not typically get married so young as they do today. The men need age for experience, wisdom, and wealth, and women need youth for producing children and running a household. However, once a woman is living on her own, providing for herself, her father does not necessarily have the same say he would have if she were living under his roof, and it's also important to mention, the father giving away the daughter is not a commandment in Scripture, nor reiterated in the New Testament.

The only requirement for marriage I have ever seen in the Bible is the couple giving their word they are married.

*And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her. And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast. And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her. And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for an handmaid. And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me?*  
-Genesis 29:21-25

At what point in this story were Jacob and Leah married? First, I'd like the reader to notice that he did not say "give me Rachel," he said "give me my wife," which was **Jacob's word that the woman being given to him was his wife.**

Some people might point out that there was a feast made in the couple's honor, and that is also a requirement. Read carefully. "*Laban gathered together all the **MEN** of the place,*" which was a celebration and feast among the men, which might be similar to a bachelor party today (without all the crude activities), and Leah was brought to him later in disguise.

The bottom line is that when the couple declares they are husband and wife, that is a sealed declaration before the Lord God. Not swearing oaths in marriage vows, because that is evil in the sight of God:

*But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.*  
-James 5:12

I've had a handful of ladies claiming to be Christians get furiously contentious with me when I tell them their marriage vows are wicked in eyes of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is very difficult to turn people away from the wicked things of this world, especially when he/she believes that wicked thing is sacred.

*Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.*  
-Proverbs 21:2

*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*  
-Proverbs 14:12

I've read and listened to many church-goers insistence, especially from pastors, that you *MUST* have someone marry you. In response to those folks, I tell them: You go into the New Testament Scripture, find that commandment, show it to me, and I will amend my ways and change this teaching to match the Word of God; on the other hand, if you search the New Testament Scripture, do *NOT* find that commandment, then I expect you to apologize to those who you have taught false doctrine to, and amend your ways to get right with the Word of God. (i.e. Don't come back to me with five more excuses.) The real underlying problem is that pastors learn from their "cemetery" college that their job is to "marry 'em and bury 'em," two rituals we have today that are completely pagan in origin, and if Christians gain understanding that these ceremonies are unrighteous, it makes the pastors look ignorant, unrighteous, and vain, all of which threatens their egos and paychecks.

Sometimes, church-goers will even ask: "If they just have to give their word, what if someone lies about being married?" When was the last time you heard someone lie about being married to someone else? Never? Most of the time, the problem is people lying about *NOT* being married (saving for fornication), not the other way around.

Some church-goers still get confused because they think, "If they don't have a ring, and they don't have a preacher marry them, and they don't pay for lavish wedding dresses, and have brides maids, and cakes, and rice-throwing, and he opens the limousine door for her in his \$300 tux rental... then what keeps them married?" **Their word keeps them married;** the word they gave that they are husband and wife bound to the marriage covenant in the Word of God, and as Jesus Christ said, "*whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.*"

If you believe you need a bunch of extra stuff in order to be married, I'd say you need to check where your final authority really lies.

*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?  
-2 Corinthians 13:5*

Once a man and woman declare they are married before God, they also declare it before all others, which is a binding covenant. That's why we need to be careful about what we say:

*Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words... Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?  
-Ecclesiastes 5:1-6*

In introductions and basic conversation, they say "This is my husband," or "This is my wife." It's your word that matters. That's why people still use the phrase "I'm spoken for."

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## A Bill of Marriage?

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Before we get into this section, I want everyone to understand that most Christians have done this innocently out of ignorance. They go to their church building, listen to the pastor, he tells them they need to get a marriage license from the country clerk, and they do so without consideration because they trust their pastor implicitly [pure faith without evidence]. If not their pastor, then their parents tell them they need to get one, but either way, God does not hold us accountable when we are ignorant, but He does hold us accountable for being willingly ignorant (i.e. not willing to learn the truth to give oneself an excuse).

Most Christians today that will argue in favor of marriage licenses based on their ignorance of the fact that the state's definition of marriage and the Bible's definition of marriage are two *DIFFERENT* concepts. When the Bible says the word "marriage," it is talking about Biblical definitions, but when the state says "marriage," it is talking about state definitions, similar to when a Christian says "Jesus," they are talking about the Jesus Christ of the Bible, but when a Catholic says "Jesus," they are talking about the idolatry of the Vatican. Though the two groups are using the same word, they don't mean the same thing, and it is vitally important that we understand the difference between Biblical marriage and state

marriage, and that nowhere in the Bible is a license, or bill of marriage, ever mentioned or made a requirement.

(Read "[Gay Marriage & Christian Hypocrisy](#)" here at creationliberty.com for more details.)

If you look carefully, you'll see the document requires all the personal information (like addresses that are supposed to be updated), signatures of both husband and wife, a person who is approved by the state to make the marriage "official," and the county office to sign off on it. This document enters you into a binding contract with the state, and the specifics of that contract are not listed on the license. Why is it that so many Christians rush down to the courthouse to sign this document, giving their word to follow the associated contract, when they have no clue what's in that contract?

COUNTY OF LICENSE				DATE VALID	State File Number
OFFICIARY - I certify the persons named below were married on _____					
1. DATE OF MARRIAGE (MM/DD/YYYY)		2. COUNTY OF OCCURRENCE		3. TYPE OF CEREMONY <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Civil	
4. OFFICIARY'S NAME (PRINT)		5. OFFICIARY'S SIGNATURE			
7. OFFICIARY'S ADDRESS (CITY, STATE & ZIP)					
<b>GROOM</b>					
8. GROOM'S NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST		9. SIGNATURE			
10. USUAL RESIDENCE ADDRESS (NUMBER AND STREET)		11. DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY)		12. BIRTH STATE (IF NOT USA GIVE COUNTRY)	
13. CITY/TOWN/LOCATION		14. USUAL RESIDENCE STATE		15. STATE	
16. FATHER'S NAME (FIRST/LAST)		17. BIRTH STATE (IF NOT USA GIVE COUNTRY)		18. MOTHER'S MARRIAGE (YES/NO)	
19. MOTHER'S MARRIAGE (YES/NO)		20. BIRTH STATE (IF NOT USA GIVE COUNTRY)		21. DATE SIGNED (MM/DD/YYYY)	
20. GROOM'S SIGNATURE					
<b>BRIDE</b>					
22. BRIDE'S NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST		23. SIGNATURE			
24. USUAL RESIDENCE ADDRESS (NUMBER AND STREET)		25. DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY)		26. BIRTH STATE (IF NOT USA GIVE COUNTRY)	
27. CITY/TOWN/LOCATION		28. USUAL RESIDENCE STATE		29. STATE	
30. FATHER'S NAME (FIRST/LAST)		31. BIRTH STATE (IF NOT USA GIVE COUNTRY)		32. MOTHER'S MARRIAGE (YES/NO)	
33. MOTHER'S MARRIAGE (YES/NO)		34. BIRTH STATE (IF NOT USA GIVE COUNTRY)		35. DATE SIGNED (MM/DD/YYYY)	
36. BRIDE'S SIGNATURE					
37. WITNESS SIGNATURE		38. WITNESS SIGNATURE			
39. COUNTY ADOPTOR'S SIGNATURE		40. DATE RECEIVED (MM/DD/YYYY)			
DO-4-01-03 (REV 5/0/03)					

Many church-goers claim that their marriages are ordained by the sanctity of God because they were married in a church building by a pastor, but it's interesting that most of those pastors, towards the end of the pagan ceremony, say the following:

*"By the power vested in me by the State of \_\_\_\_\_, I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may now kiss the bride."*

**The power is coming from THE STATE.** The power of authority in most churches today is *NOT* drawn from the Bible and the Lord Jesus Christ, but rather the authority of the state under what they call "marriage," which is really a corporate business contract that defines property rights.

So-called "ministries" like American Fellowship Church offer ordained ID cards that allow you to be a lifetime "official minister" that has the power to lead wedding ceremonies. All you have to do is pay the low-low price of \$250.00 and you too can marry people; no training necessary, accepted in most states, but you need an additional \$10 for Hawaii, and an additional \$10 if you want a fancy certificate to hang on your office wall, which apparently is worth the money since the Lord Jesus Christ must have said "*thou shalt first get a license from a government-approved 501c3 corporation before thou shalt minister,*" I guess I just haven't been able to find that chapter and verse yet.

The minister named on the other side of this card is authorized in accordance with local law, to perform all duties of the ministry including marriages and other religious ceremonies. Please offer this minister any assistance you can in the performance of his or her ministry.

Thank You!

www.amfellow.org      Rev T. H. Swenson  
afcf@amfellow.org      Bishop



-American Fellowship Church, "Lifetime Minister License - ID Card - Ordination - Membership," price listed at \$250.00 as of Sept 24, 2015, [amfellow.org/lifetime-minister-license-id-card-ordination-membership]

And of course you also get named a "reverend," which is a totally unbiblical title for a man to have. Only the Lord God is called reverend in the Bible.

(Read "[Titles Are Unbiblical in the Church](#)" here at creationliberty.com for more details.)

People treat these licenses and ceremonies as if they are somehow godly, but where is any of this in Scripture? Christ never taught us to pay a bunch of money to get licenses and then go around doing pagan rites over married couples.

Most Christians, because they have spent their lives listening to TV and preachers (or TV preachers), believe that a marriage license is not a contract. There is a hidden contract behind the license itself, and it can be clearly understood when we consider a prenuptial agreement. In the case of a divorce, prenuptial agreements prevent the spouse from getting any money/property when the other dies. Prenuptial contracts must be signed *BEFORE* a couple signs the marriage license in order to alter the standards of the typical business contract that is automatically initiated when the marriage license is filed. Although it's never talked about *AT ALL* in the typical church buildings of America (mostly due to the ignorance of preachers on the matter), there is a contract behind your license, and that leads us to a more serious question:

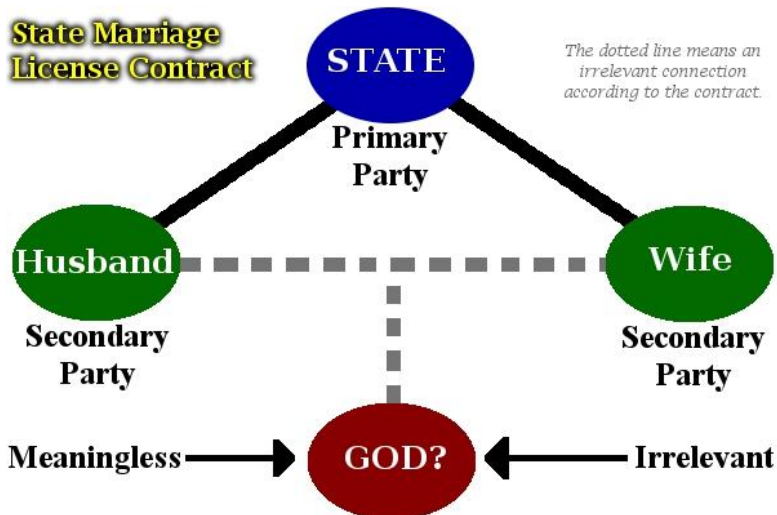
"What are you giving your word in agreement to in that contract?"

Sadly, most Americans in general don't have any understanding of what a contract is, let alone all the details of the things they have legally binded themselves under in the contracts they've signed:

*"When we marry, we enter into a contract... Because so many of our relationships with others are affected by the law of contracts, it is important to know what a contract is, the obligations created by contract, and how contracts may be enforced."*

-Fanter & Associates, "Understanding Contracts," F&A LLC, retrieved Aug 22, 2013, [fangerlaw.com/understanding-contracts.php]

Signing a marriage contract gives power to the state to enforce legislation over you, your spouse, and any children that may result in that union. A man by the name of Virgil Cooper documented what he learned from the clerks in his county court office when they explained the truth behind the marriage license:



*"I asked her to explain to me the general and statutory implications of the marriage license... she deferred for most technical explanations to her assistant... He then explained some of the technicalities of the marriage license. He said, first of all, the marriage license is a secular contract between the parties and the State. **The State is the principal party in that secular contract.** The husband and wife are secondary or inferior parties. The secular contract is a three-way contract between the State, as Principal, and the husband and wife as the other two legs of the contract. He said, in the traditional sense a marriage is a covenant between the husband and wife and God, but in the secular contract with the state, reference to God is a dotted line, and NOT officially considered included in the*

*secular contract at all.* He said if the husband and wife wish to include God as a party in their marriage, that is a 'dotted line' they will have to add in their own minds... He said further that what he meant by the relationship to God being a 'dotted line' meant that the State regards any mention of God as irrelevant, even meaningless... The husband and wife are merely contractually 'joined' as business partners, not in any religious union. They may even be considered, he said, connected to each other by another 'dotted line.'"

-Virgil Cooper, "Marriage Licenses: The Real Truth," retrieved Aug 22, 2013, [usavsus.info/MarriageLicenses-TheRealTruth.htm]

The American marriage contract still holds a man and woman as two separate entities, only joined together by each individual linking to the state. The state does not have any concept of "one flesh" in Scripture, nor does the concept of God have any authority in the matter; He is meaningless and irrelevant to them.

Some authors who still encourage Christians to get marriage licenses understand the contract has nothing to do with the Lord Jesus Christ:

*"Marriages are very easily gotten into by or in accordance with our civil laws. But the marriage contract is only a piece of paper without the approval of God. Many marriages are entered into without either member being aware as to what his/her total responsibility is."*

-Willie A. Davis, *Ensuring a Child's Education*, Vantage Press, 1989, p. 69, ISBN: 9780533067510

Don't misunderstand; you don't go to hell for getting a marriage license because our Salvation is not based on our own works. However, we need to be honest about this situation. When Christians are planning to get married, they need to learn the facts about it, preachers need to stop handing out false information in their willful ignorance, and those truly born-again in the Church of Christ need to stop holding up their marriage license as if it's a holy piece of paper.

Even worse than these people are those who condemn to fornication and adultery those who refuse to sign a government issued license. The church buildings of America have dropped so low in their understanding of the Bible that if a man and woman refuse to put their marriage under an authority that has abandon the Lord Jesus Christ and his sovereignty over marriage, they are shunned out.



Some of you may not believe what I'm telling you, but if you don't believe me, then I challenge you couples planning to be married, refuse the pagan rituals, refuse the state contract, be vocal about it in your church building, and watch what happens. It won't take much time before you're pulled into the pastor's office, and he tries to convince you to do some things not found in Scripture to appease his puffed-up, unbiblical "authority," and when you refuse to do what he requests, you'll find yourself not welcome there anymore.

What a pathetic joke that these church buildings will invite unsaved people into their "worship sessions," without any consideration that the Church of Christ is not to be all-inclusive, but when a Christian couple decides to serve the Lord first and foremost in starting their family, the church buildings of America will cast them out. Who do these buildings really belong to? The Lord or Satan?

To give an example, my wife and I refused to sign a marriage contract, and when this information found its way (through gossip) into the church building we were working with at the time (for giving creation presentations), the pastor of that building began to accuse me of not being right with God and living in sin. The pastor's wife, who was a lawyer, said to me, "Well, what happens if you get a divorce?" That's precisely the argument she used against me; not about the sanctity of marriage, but presuming that, because we didn't get a state contract, our marriage was doomed to fail from the start.

*And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife;*

*-Deuteronomy 24:3*

*They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.*

*-Matthew 19:7-8*

Divorce was not an option from the beginning. These people brought me to a board meeting, accused me of not being right with God, but when I asked for them Scripture demonstrating a "bill of marriage" (not a bill of divorcement) they couldn't provide it. When I asked them for a law that requires two people married by God to sign a contract, they couldn't provide it. These people brought me into a meeting (and didn't bother to tell me what the meeting was about; ambushing me), but came completely unprepared to prove anything they were saying was true, and when I explained to them their ignorance of the matter, I was promised by the pastor "I'll look into these things."

As some of you may have guessed, he lied to me. They never looked into the matter, and instead refused to work with us any more, and we've never heard from them again. Folks, be prepared; standing for the Word of God in church buildings of America today usually means you will no longer be welcome there.

Nowhere does the Bible ever talk about a bill, contract, or written statement of marriage.

## **You Have No Rights to Your Children**

Children of a couple under a state marriage contract are considered "fruit" of the marriage. Again, according to the contract, the man and the woman are both individually tied together through the state, and *ONLY* through the state (i.e. God's not a part of it), the children belong to the primary party and sole authority of the contract. In other words, your children don't belong to God, they belong to the state, as Cooper found out during his investigation with the county courthouse:

*"[The County Clerk] also said that it is very important to understand that children born to the marriage are considered by law as 'the contract bearing fruit' -- meaning the children primarily belong to the State, even though the law never comes out and says so in so many words... he said it is vitally important for parents to understand two doctrines that became established in the United States during the 1930s. The first is the Doctrine of Parens Patriae. The second is the Doctrine of In Loco Parentis. Parens Patriae means literally 'the parent of the country' or to state it more bluntly - the State is the undisclosed true parent. Along this line a 1930s Arizona Supreme Court case states that parents have no property right in their*

*children, and have custody of their children during good behavior at the sufferance of the State. This means that parents may raise their children and maintain custody of their children as long as they don't offend the State... the parents are only conditional caretakers. [Thus the Doctrine of Loco Parentis]"*

-Virgil Cooper, "Marriage Licenses: The Real Truth," retrieved Aug 22, 2013, [<http://www.usavsus.info/MarriageLicenses-TheRealTruth.htm>]

You are a conditional caretaker of your children, so long as you raise them in a state-approved manner. For example, spanking your child with an unruly, defiant, lying spirit, according to the state, is grounds for abuse, and therefore they have the right to take your children. If you signed a marriage contract, you have relinquished your God-given authority over your children because they have full discretionary power (*carte blanche* privilege) to take your children (at any time for any reason) if they don't like the way you raise them.

*"When you sign anything that has to do with a state or a local government, there are times when you actually relinquish certain rights. When you sign a marriage contract, you give up your right to educate your children the way you see fit, giving the state authority to educate them and even remove them from you if necessary. Thus you give up your right to educate your own children (depending on the laws of each individual state)."*

-Trent Goodbaudy, *Freedom from Government: How to Reclaim Your Power*, Trent Goodbaudy, 2012, p. 49, ISBN: 9781468196344

I know the excuses these church-goers make; I've heard them many times: "Well Chris, it's the government. Whether you get the marriage license or not they can still come and take your children whenever they want." That's true, but that reveals the sick and sorry nature of the average church-goer when they don't consider what the Lord God sees in all this.

If you have marriage contract, and the government comes to take your children, is it right or wrong in the eyes of God? When you sign that contract, you have *GIVEN YOUR WORD* and agreed to do abide by it, and so if you fight them taking your children, you are *LYING* by going against that which you contractually agreed to. On the other hand, if you don't sign that marriage contract, and the government comes to take your children, then what they are doing is wrong in His sight, and even if you're apart, your family will get the blessings and protection of the Lord God against wicked men who violate his Word, and break their own oaths to uphold and defend the U.S. Constitution.

*"In 1993, parents were upset here in Wisconsin because a test was being administered to their children in the government schools which was very invasive of the family's privacy. When parents complained, they were shocked by the school bureaucrats who informed them that their children were required to take the test by law and that they would have to take the test because they (the government school) had jurisdiction over their children. When parents asked the bureaucrats what gave them jurisdiction, the bureaucrats answered, 'your marriage license and their birth certificates.' Judicially, and in increasing fashion, practically, your state marriage license has far-reaching implications.*

-Matthew Trehwella, "5 Reasons Why Christians Should Not Obtain a State Marriage License," Mercy Seat Christian Church, 2012, retrieved Aug 22, 2013, [<http://www.mercyseat.net/marriagelicense.html>]

*Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.*

*-Jeremiah 17:5*

Just because your "pastor" might tell you that you need to go sign a marriage contract with the State, doesn't mean it's right.

Some people argue that they signed a "marriage certificate" in their church building, so they're legally married and didn't have to sign a contract with the state. The State of Oregon, for example, would disagree with you strongly:

Even if you sign the page on the inside of your Bible where it documents marriage, the state has no obligation to honor it because the corporate contract was not signed. If your marriage is not made into a corporation, the government can't bring it into their courts because it doesn't exist according to their system and records.

However, we need to remember that it doesn't matter if it exists according to the government. It only matters if it exists in the eyes of God.

*"I have performed wedding ceremonies for couples without marriage licenses--they wanted to be married in the sight of God but didn't care about making it legal. I started doing this when I realized that a great many senior citizen couples in my community were living together after their respective spouses had died. Had they become legally married they would have lost the pension income of a deceased spouse, but on the other hand just 'living together' conflicted with their moral values."*

-Dave Stillie, *Extreme Surrender: Breaking Free from Futile Religious Ritual to Develop a Real Relationship with God*, CrossBooks, 2013, p. 71, ISBN: 9781462728626



Though this man had the right idea of staying away from state licensing, he's still taking these people through the pagan ceremonies. It's even more sad that it had to come down to a question of money before these church-goers finally decided to ditch the licensing process. And worst of all, they don't believe they can be married until they have their pastor's approval, which turns him into a priest, not a minister; do men give us permission to be married, or does God?

*"Marriage licenses are required in all states although the requirements vary. The license is a permit that confirms that both of you are free to legally marry... After the wedding, your officiant will sign the license, along with your witnesses... and send it in to the office that handles marriage licenses."*

-Lifetime Press, *The Lifetime Wedding Planner*, Hyperion, 2003, p. 34, ISBN: 9780786869435

In order to be "married" by the state, you must have a state license. There will be no argument coming from me on this fact, however, the argument I am making is that Christians have foolishly taught that state marriage and Biblical marriage are the same thing, when a few simple questions about marriages can prove otherwise.

QUESTION ABOUT MARRIAGE	STATE	BIBLE
Is a license required?	Yes	No
Does someone have to marry the couple?	Yes	No
Can you get divorced for any reason?	Yes	No
Can same-sex couples marry?	Yes	No
Can you get a "legal separation?"	Yes	No

(A legal marriage separation is where the husband and wife sign a contract agreeing to be separated, but still married by law, allowing them to go out, date, and have sex with other people without violating laws of affairs inside a standard state marriage contract. **This is simply amending the marriage contract to get the state's permission to commit adultery.** A separation can also give the couple time to split up their property before they get an "official" divorce; all completely anti-Biblical.)

If you want to learn more about the differences between state marriage and Biblical marriage, I would highly suggest reading our article "[Gay Marriage & Christian Hypocrisy](#)" here at creationliberty.com for more details. The average American church-goer stands on roadsides with picket signs claiming they are defending the sanctity of God in their

license, when in reality, their license has nothing to do with God.

As you can see in the chart above, the Bible has quite a few major differences from the state requirements, and that is incredibly important because it means when the state says "marriage" and the Bible says "marriage," **they both might be using the same word, but they mean two completely different things.** A Christian couple will typically marry in a church with a pastor, sign a license, and then, for some strange reason, automatically assume that means they have a Biblically-founded marriage.

The foundation of the marriage issue comes down to your authority. The authority you seek in marriage is determined by which definition of marriage you use. If you look to God as the authority over our life, you'll use the Bible's definitions, but if you look to the world as the authority over your life, you'll use 'legal' definitions.



There is no law that requires any two people to file a marriage license. It's only required to file a marriage license if you want the state to recognize the corporate business contract in a court of law. Even if there was a law, we still are not required to follow every ordinance of government no matter what (i.e. when they make laws that contradict the Word of God), and I would encourage Christians to read our article "[False Doctrine: Unlimited Submission to Government](#)" here at creationliberty.com for more details.

## Questions and Concerns

These are questions I've received over the years, since I originally published this teaching back in 2013. Before contacting our ministry with questions about this subject, I would urge you to first read over these and gain understanding, and I pray this will help you and your family.

**QUESTION:** *If a husband and wife don't get a marriage license from the State, how can they buy property or own a home?*

Please allow me to return a question: Is it possible for a group of people to own a home or property together without any type of marriage contract? Of course they can. Whether it's cars, houses, boats, or anything else you can think of, people co-own them all the time for business and charity projects, and this is common knowledge, but for some strange reason when it comes to marriage people panic as if they have to handle things differently.

For example, car titles in the U.S., as far as I'm aware, already have two spaces to sign for co-ownership. This allows husbands and wives to own the car together. For another strange unknown reason, many people think because they're married, and one spouse signs ownership, the other spouse automatically has co-ownership, but that is not the case



because if your the spouse who has ownership dies, they have to provide their marriage contract to the state to get ownership of the vehicle.

You can co-own about anything in this world without getting a marriage license. That leads us to an important question: Why do you need a marriage license in the first place?

**QUESTION: *How are you supposed to file income tax returns if you don't have a marriage license?***

Before answering that, there is a more important question: Is there a law that requires you to file an income tax return? Most people don't even realize that there has never been a law requiring you to file. Since we don't cover that topic on this website, I encourage you to watch the following video: "[Freedom to Fascism](#)" by Aaron Russo.

If you don't want to get the truth about the law and what you are and are not required to do, and decide to file anyway, then file single. Remember, when an income tax form asks about "marriage," they're not asking about Biblical marriage, they're asking whether or not you have a license filed with the state, and if you don't, then file single. It's not a complex situation, and you're not lying to them when they refuse to recognize your marriage before the Lord God; if they want to label you as single, then file as such.

Some people have had concerns that they won't get a proper write-off for being married. What they're actually saying in their hearts is that keeping themselves and their family right with the Word of God is not as important as getting a few pennies every year in a check from the State. (i.e. The money is more important than the righteousness.)

**QUESTION: *How do we have children together if we're not married?***

I realize this is a sensitive issue for some people who are against birth certificates in the U.S. I ought to mention that briefly before we continue.

I am not in favor of birth certificates, but I am also not a person who fights them. There are some things, like a marriage license or 501c3 contract, that are unnecessary and people ought not to get involved with them, but there are other things, like birth certificates and social security numbers, that are a gigantic hassle to get around, to the point that you would spend most of your life working around them. Some things are not worth the time to fight against because we are instructed to preach the Gospel of Christ, and if something is so excessive in having to work around it that you can't hardly get anything done, it's not worth the struggle.

Before I get all the emails, yes I am fully aware of the corporate problem with your name, and that the government has made you a corporate soul; I understand it. The problem is that you will spend half your life studying the matter, learning the work-arounds to it, and by the time you're actually free from it, you have no Biblical understanding, and have wasted most of your life that you could have been working for the Kingdom of Heaven and saving souls. Choose your battles wisely, and remember that it is Christ that gives us liberty, not the government.

*[The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.](#)*

*-Proverbs 11:30*

Please consider that Christ and his disciples operated under Roman control, and they are the inventors of the corporation. Even Paul used his Roman citizenship for his protection ([Acts 22:24-29](#)). They didn't spend their life fighting it, but also didn't enter into unnecessary contracts with the government because some preacher told them to do it.

With that in mind, birth certificates don't require a marriage license. They don't require signatures as far as I understand; and also don't even require the names of parents if those parents aren't available in the case of orphaned children (sadly left in the care of the State. Here's a sample:



Even adopting a child doesn't require a marriage contract:  
"Single and unmarried people are often open to adopting an older child or a child with special needs, while married couples often seek only to adopt a healthy newborn. In fact, single and unmarried adults already adopt about 33% of children from state care(U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2004)."  
 -*Unmarried Equality*, "Unmarried People Want to Adopt," retrieved Oct 2, 2015, [unmarried.org/parents-children/adoption]

So once again, we're left with the question: Why do you need a marriage license in the first place?

**QUESTION: How do you know you can trust your spouse if all you have that binds you together is your word?**

That's a great question, and one I can't fully answer for you. Here's what I told my wife: "You will never be able to fully trust me. However, know that my foundation is on the Word of God, and so you can trust in Him instead."

For all of you young and unmarried out there, please read this carefully. You need to take extreme precaution of who you decide to marry (if you decide to marry) because you're stuck with him/her for the rest of your life whether you like it or not, and though there are many qualities to look for in a husband/wife, there is one primary quality that almost nobody looks for: Keeping his/her word.

(Read "[God Does Not Justify Lies](#)" here at creationliberty.com for more details on keeping your word, and not keeping your word when you give it is called *LYING*.)

Ladies, when he gives you his word, or when tells someone else he will do something, how serious is he to keep his word, even if it's something small? Guys, does she back out of agreements when she's nervous or unsure? Check and see if the man/woman you're involved with tells "white" lies because even minor lies show his/her true character, and are clear warning signs that you should stay far away. If a man/woman can lie about so many other things, don't you think they can lie when they tell you they love you?

(Read "[False Doctrine: Learn to Love Yourself](#)" here at creationliberty.com for more details about the modern usage of "love" is not the same as the Biblical usage.)

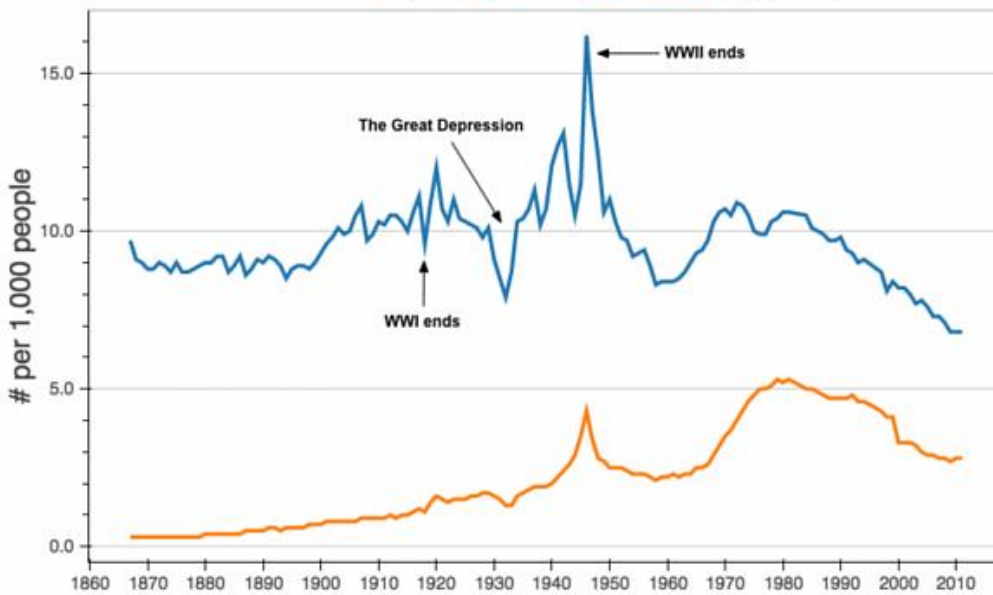
However, even a man/woman that holds the Word of God sacred, who makes a point to tell the truth and honor their word in all matters, cannot be fully trusted because the heart of all mankind is deceitful. I'm just saying you have a much better shot with someone who keeps their word for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ than you would otherwise.

And here's the question you really need to consider: "Why do you think a marriage license is the glue that holds your marriage together?" I'll give you the answer: money. **If your marriage starts with questions of money and property rights, that's precisely how it's going to end.**

I can recall hearing many stories of people wanting divorce, but they held off for a long time because they knew the fights over money and property would be so heated, they didn't want to go through it; he/she simply waited until they were angry and desperate enough that he/she didn't care about the money and property anymore. It shows that their hearts had already left the marriage, but they just hadn't filed the divorce papers yet, so why do people think that a marriage license is going to protect them from divorce?

The following image is an average poll chart created by the CDC on marriage vs divorce rates. Notice specifically how 150 years ago, divorce was rare and the distance between the divorce line and marriage line was far apart.

## 144 years of marriage and divorce in the U.S.



Data source: CDC NCHS  
Author: Randy Olson (@randal\_olson / randalolson.com)

(Chart from Ana Swanson, "144 years of marriage and divorce in the United States in one chart," *The Washington Post*, June 23, 2015, retrieved Oct 2, 2015, [washingtonpost.com/news/wonkblog/wp/2015/06/23/144-years-of-marriage-and-divorce-in-the-united-states-in-one-chart])

Notice also that as you move to the right (over time) the two lines have slowly started to come closer together. That's a rise in divorce rates and decline in marriages. Many people today aren't even getting married (that's the slow the decline in the blue line on the right side of the chart), but simply living together in sin because they have the corrupted mindset that marriage the cause of divorce, so they don't bother getting married and just share an apartment so they can fornicate together.

Nothing will guarantee prevention of divorce, nothing will guarantee you won't be taken advantage of

in a divorce, and nothing will guarantee a perfect marriage, so stop thinking that a corporate business contract from the government will make you and your spouse perfect. Nothing can compensate for Biblical understanding and wise choices. Problems will arise, fighting will take place, and if you and your spouse do not have enough Biblical understand and discernment to work those things out by yourselves, it's better to be among family in the spirit (i.e. born-again Christians) who can help.

### QUESTION: *If I get divorced, can I get remarried?*

Short answer: It depends on the situation.

*Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.*

-Luke 16:18

This is also said for women:

*And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.*

-Mark 10:12

Seems fairly simple doesn't it? The problem is that most church-goers do not read the correlating verses, taking precept upon precept, line upon line, to understand all of it. This is a little similar to how a person will read "judge not" in Matthew 7 that specifically referring to hypocritical judgment, and then stop reading anything else before and after it, when the Bible makes it very clear that righteous judgment is necessary. We have to read the correlating verses to gain understanding.

(Read "Unbiblical Cop-Outs: Don't Judge Me!" here at creationliberty.com for more details.)

*And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, **except it be for fornication**, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.*

-Matthew 19:9

To make sure we are clear on what this means, the Lord Jesus Christ has given us a rule, and an exception to that rule. For example, when John's students questioned him:

*John answered and said, **A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.***

-John 3:27

There are some exceptions to the rules God has laid down in His law. Killing is wrong, except if you kill a man (thief) who sneaks into your home at night. (Exd 22:2). Likewise, divorce was not an option from the beginning, but the Lord God has allowed it due to the hardness of the hearts of men and women, both in the lack of forgiveness from the spouse wronged, and in the lack of understanding from the spouse who cheats.

*But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.*

*-Proverbs 6:32*

*The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?*

*-Matthew 19:3*

Notice they specifically asked Him if a man could leave his wife for any reason.

*And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

*-Matthew 19:4-6*

They were trying to lay a trap for Him to contradict Himself because the law allowed the separation of that which "God hath joined together."

*They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?*

*-Matthew 19:7*

And His answer was: Because of your sin.

*He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.*

*-Matthew 19:8*

Because when the sinful man looks at his wife, he sees a piece of meat instead of a help meet. Please understand, the point of the divorce was not so that men and women would have a legal loophole to run around and fornicate at their leisure, but so the wronged spouse would not have to suffer at the hands of the wicked.

*And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.*

*-Matthew 19:9*

Christ had earlier said the same thing in another way:

*It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.*

*-Matthew 5:31-32*

This is an instance, this is a husband that is divorcing his wife because he wants to sleep with another woman, and thinks he has a loophole in God's law that gives him liberty to fornicate. Christ shoots this down quickly, calling him out on his adultery. However, the main point I want the reader to focus on is that if the man is divorcing his wife so he can go sleep with another woman is forcing her into a situation where she would remarry.

To fully understand this, let's go back to Deuteronomy 24 to look at Moses's words on the bill of divorcement:

*When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.*

*-Deuteronomy 24:1-2*

Fornication and adultery is such a serious situation that may merit divorce because that is the only means by which God permits sexual intercourse, which is a natural desire installed into our flesh by His creation.

*Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her*



*own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other [i.e. denial of sexual pleasure], except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency [i.e. being unable to control sexual desire]. But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment. For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.*

*-1 Corinthians 7:1-9*

So the husband denies sexual intercourse with his wife, and saves himself instead for another woman outside of marriage (this applies to pornography as well), to the point that the wife cannot fulfill her need with her husband, and a divorce takes place. The husband has already committed adultery and broken Christ's commandment to love his wife and consider her needs, and without the option of divorce and remarriage to a man who will fulfill her needs as the role of her husband, then she, who did not sin, is now punished for the sins of her former husband, being left to burn which would tempt her to fornicate.

Please don't think this is just husband to wives because I know of many cases where the wife has been the sinner in these cases. Remember that when a man cheats on his wife (defrauds her), he's cheating on her with another woman, and that woman is also committing adultery or fornication; there are women involved in this too. One of the most wicked things I've seen/heard women doing in marriage is denying her husband sexual intercourse in order to get him to do things, buy her things, etc, because when she holds herself back from him, he is tempted by Satan in his desire for sexual interaction (i.e. incontinency).

The bottom line is this: Don't commit adultery.

As far as I understand in Scripture, there are only two causes that would call for a divorce: fornication and physical violence. A man that beats his wife breaks Christ's commandment of loving his wife as his own flesh, and she then has cause for divorce to protect herself. Under these two circumstances, remarriage is allowed under the law, but aside from that, remarriage for divorce under any other cause is committing adultery.

In the end, divorce was not an option from the start. It's one man/woman for life. My wife and I have had some very serious fights in our marriage so far, and we've even gone to other Christians for help over them; however, we worked it out. Most of your problems can be worked out, so love one another properly, and work it out.

**QUESTION: *What if someone was divorced and remarried multiple times before they were saved, and he/she is now with their 2nd, 3rd, or 4th spouse; what should they do?***

I would answer that the same way Christ answered the adulterous woman: "Go and sin no more."

*When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.*

*-John 8:10-11*

Stick with who you are with now, dedicate yourself to follow the commandments of Christ, and don't continue the cycle of sin.

**QUESTION: *What should we do about people claiming to be Christians who get divorced and remarried many times?***

Look at the circumstance first; find out the truth of the matter. If they're getting divorced over issues that do not have to do with cheating and/or abuse, then you need to rebuke them if they don't understand the commandments of Scripture.

If they will not hear rebuke, and continue in their adultery of divorce and remarriage, then you kick the fornicator out of the church.

*But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat... Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.*

*-1 Corinthians 5:11-13*

You'll sometimes run into a situation with a man claiming to be of Christ and is a preacher, who falsely justifies himself in his sin of adultery through divorce; people like Peter Ruckman for example, who has divorced and remarried multiple times in sin and does not repent. If they won't hear the Word of God on the matter, and their cult followers won't kick him out, then sanctify yourselves; meaning that you set yourselves apart from those wicked people until they repent because Satan has a hold on them, and you don't want to be associated with them, lest you become leavened and give heed to seducing spirits.

*I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

*-John 17:15-17*

*Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump... I would they were even cut off [i.e. setting them apart from yourself] which trouble you.*

*-Galatians 5:7-12*

If a person calling him/herself your brother/sister in Christ will not repent of sin, stay away from them. It's that simple.

**QUESTION: *Without a marriage license, how could two people handle a divorce with all the property?***

As I pointed out earlier, the couple can still put all the property in both husband and wife's name without any kind of marriage license, so if the courts are involved, it would be handled the same way as two business owners sharing property; either one has to sell it to the other, or the assets have to be liquidated (sold and money split between the owners).

However, if both the man and woman claim to be Christians, they should *NOT* have to go to the law to begin with.

*Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.*

*-1 Corinthians 6:1-4*

Getting courts of law involved is directly against New Testament doctrine. The courts would only have to be involved if one of the couple is not a Christian. Sadly, even if the couple decides to let the church handle the disputes, they typically go to their pastor, instead of selecting the *LEAST* esteemed among the brethren to judge the matter.

On top of that, they need to remember that, even though they are divorcing, they are still one in the spirit in Christ.

*But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;*

*-Matthew 5:44*

If they are incapable of loving one another in this way, you can see how hardened of heart they are. Also, if the money and property is such a desperate issue to the man or the woman, Christ tells us:

*And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.*

*-Matthew 5:40*

The reason almost no one will do this, even if they claim to believe on Christ, is because they say one thing with their lips, but in their hearts they could care less about the Word of God.

*Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:*

*-Isaiah 29:13*

*He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.*

*-Mark 7:6*

Perhaps if we were following the great commandment to love one another as ourselves, we wouldn't get into the situation of divorce in the first place.

**QUESTION: *If I already have a marriage license, what should I do? Should I divorce with the courts to break the contract, but we remain married?***

First of all, getting a divorce only *ALTERS* the contract, it doesn't dissolve it. The contract with the state still exists between you and your spouse after a divorce, so you would have to talk to a legal expert on how to dissolve the contract behind the license. (That's information I don't have and we won't provide.)

Now, to get to the question of what someone should do: I can't really answer that. You have to go by the conviction and discernment you receive from the Holy Spirit through prayer and study.

The reason I don't say, "You need to dissolve that contract immediately," like **I do with 501c3** is because 501c3 is a direct effect on the Body of Christ as a whole, and denounces the Lord Jesus Christ in his authority over the church and leavening it entirely. Your marriage license is a problem that may be effecting you, your spouse, and your family, but it doesn't effect the Body.

Over the years, I've received letters from some couples who have thrown away their wedding rings because of the paganism behind them, and although they have expressed to me some initial sadness, after it's over, they have talked about how liberating it is to be rid of such pagan concepts, and how the Lord Jesus Christ has opened their eyes to a number of subjects as they have sanctified themselves from the wickedness of the world. The Lord Jesus Christ may want the same thing for those of you who have signed that marriage contract with the state (to be rid of your marriage license), to come out from among them and be separate, to walk in the light of Christ, so you need to pay attention to the convictions you receive.

*For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them... But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.*

*-Ephesians 5:8-14*

*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

*-1 John 1:7*

However, the best thing you could possibly do is to educate young Christians on these matters, and don't lead them into making the same mistakes you did in your ignorance. Don't let the wickedness continue to the next generation.

*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

*-Hosea 4:6*

Just keep in mind that if you keep your marriage contract with the state, you have given your word to abide by all of their rules and regulations over your marriage and family, including your children. It's food for thought.