Introduction to Marriage

Summary

What actually makes a marriage — a government form, or a covenant made before Yahweh? This article works through Scripture's own pattern for how marriage begins, why the modern marriage license deserves real scrutiny, and what makes a vow to a spouse permanently binding.

- Marriage in Yahweh's design: consummated by cohabitation and sexual union with parental consent, not by any state-issued document; betrothal carrying the full weight of marriage before consummation.
- State marriage licenses traced to 19th-century anti-miscegenation law, and the case for a privately kept Family Bible record instead.
- Who holds the authority to license, or to end, a marriage — Yahweh and the couple's families, not civil government.
- Historical Christian views on divorce and remarriage, and marriage vows as a binding covenant with Yahweh regardless of later regret.
- A closing word-study on the Hebrew terms for "man" and "woman" pointing to Yahweh's name and presence within the marriage bond.

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Introduction to Marriage

We do not want to presume whether or not anyone reading this has "consummated" their relationship with sex. Thus, for what it is worth we will comment on the matter allowing for both possibilities.

In several places, the Bible shows us that marriage was considered a matter between the groom *(and his family)* and the bride *(and her family)*. In every case, the marriage was considered consummated when the groom took the bride to his *(or his family's)* home to live with him.

After that, she belonged to him, and to him alone *(Genesis 24:67, Judges 15:1).* Sometimes a gift was required, and the groom giving a ring to the bride is the remaining manifestation of this custom when they have joined together to become one flesh; that is, when they have left father and mother in order to join with or cleave to *(have sex with)* their partner *(Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5, Mark 10:7, Ephesians 5:31)*.

A man and woman are considered one flesh when they first have sex *(Genesis 29:23-25,28, Exodus 22:16-17, Deuteronomy 22:28)*, even to a prostitute *(1 Corinthians 6:16)*. The woman at Samaria told Yah'shua that she had no husband, but Yah'shua told her she had 5 husbands, because that's how many men she had sex with *(John 4:16-19)*. The biblical phrase "to have a woman" always means "to marry" *(Matthew 14:4; 22:28, 1 Corinthians 5:1; 7:2,29).*

However, just because a man and woman have sex together, it does not necessarily mean they are married. For example, if a man has sex with an un-betrothed woman, they were commanded to marry each other *(Deuteronomy 22:28-29).* They were not considered married, but commanded to marry. But if the father refused to give his daughter to him, then they would not get married *(Exodus 22:16-17).* A man and woman cannot get married unless the parents of the woman give their permission. She was under the covering of her father, until he gives her away.

Scripture plainly says that Mary was Joseph's **wife** *(Matthew 1:20,24, Luke 2:5)*. But at the same time, she was **betrothed** to him:

Matthew 1:18-19, "...Mary was **betrothed** to Joseph...Joseph...was minded to **put her away**."

The Greek word for "put her away" is '*aphiemi*,' and is used by Paul to describe divorce in 1 Corinthians 7:11 and Matthew 1:18-19. In other words, a divorce was required to break off a betrothal, because she was his wife! Joseph thought that Mary had slept with another man *(because she was pregnant and had not slept with him)*, and that's why he was thinking of divorcing her, but an angel showed Joseph that she was conceived by His Holy Spirit *(Matthew 1:20)*.

Lest anyone question whether a betrothed girl is a wife:

Deuteronomy 20:7, "And what man is there that hath **betrothed a wife**, and hath **not taken her**? let him go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man take her."

She was his wife, but he had not taken (lain with) her yet, he had not slept with her and become one flesh. Their marriage was not yet consummated. Deuteronomy 22:23-24 is another passage that defines a "betrothed virgin" *(verse 23)* as a "neighbour's wife" (verse 24).

Deuteronomy 22:23-24, "If a damsel that is a virgin be **betrothed** unto an husband, and a man find her in the city, and lie with her...ye shall stone them with stones that they die; the damsel, because she cried not, being in the city; and the man, because he hath humbled his **neighbour's wife**..."

So it seems that for many that consider themselves to be "dating", their current circumstances have caused a *de facto* marriage between them, whether or not they have had physical relations. Their obligations now are simply to have their respective fathers *(parents)* confirm their approval, make a formal announcement to their parents and to their friends *(their public)*, and take up their own place of residence in the sight of Yahweh.

To make the matter "proper", is a matter of conscience between each of you and Yahweh. To make the matter "lawful", is simply to mutually agree to conduct yourselves according to Yahweh's will for you, and to make this commitment before one another and your personal witnesses if you wish and in the sight of Yahweh. This "covenant of marriage" is to be made between "the two of you as making your lifelong vows to Yahweh", *(as it is Yahweh that joins you)*, not between "the two of you making your lifelong vows to one another", and this is what makes it "lawful" in the sight of Yahweh!

When you have done these things you are effectively and formally married and committed to your marriage in the sight of Yahweh through your covenant with Him, even though if you have been formally "dating" or courting, there is Biblical support for your already being "married", or betrothed if you have not had sex, and subject to "divorce" in order to separate.

There is no need whatsoever for the "state" to be involved in this matter which is between the two of you and Yahweh. If you wish to have a certificate or license of marriage from the state, then do so as a secondary issue to the real marriage. Yahweh is not concerned with whether or not you have any piece of paper that says you are married, but He is concerned with what you have agreed in your hearts with Him.

We know many people that have conducted wonderful ceremonies in truth between the couple and Yahweh, and in front of very large audiences that were able to accept the matter according to their individual consciences. They had prepared their own private documents that they signed in front of witnesses and the audience was then able to conclude whatever they wanted or whatever the couples decided to advise them had happened.

That is to say, that for the sake of the consciences of your guests, some may be offended at a non-state/church ceremony while others that are Godly may be offended at a state/church ceremony, but there is no deception in letting those that agree with your understanding of Yahweh know the truth of your ceremony, while letting the others assume whatever their conscience dictates *(including for example, that the Godly friend you asked to help you with your ceremony is an ordained minister or justice of the peace)*.

Having established that marriage itself — its formation, its consummation, and the vows that make it "lawful" — is a covenant made directly between a couple and Yahweh, with no outside authority required to form it, a related but distinct question follows: who holds the authority to license, register, or otherwise stand as gatekeeper over that covenant? If, as shown above, only Yahweh and the couple's own families are due a role in joining a man and woman together, then the modern practice of asking civil government for permission to marry deserves the same scrutiny, and is examined next.

Marriage "Licenses" are Unlawful!

Every year thousands of Christians amble down to their local county courthouse and obtain a marriage license from the State in order to marry their future spouse. They do this unquestioningly. They usually do it because their minister has told them to go get one, and besides, "everybody else gets one." This article attempts to answer the question - *why should we not get one?*

The legal definition of a "license" demands by all accounts, that we *not* obtain one to marry. Black's Law Dictionary defines "license" as, *"The permission by competent authority to do an act which without such permission, would be illegal."* We need to ask ourselves- why should it be illegal to marry without the State's permission? More importantly, why should we *need* the State's permission to participate in something which Yahweh has ordained and commanded us to do *(Gen. 2:18-24)*? We do not need the State's permission to marry, nor should we grovel before state officials to seek it. What if you apply and the State says "no"? You must understand that the authority to license implies the power to prohibit. A license by definition "confers a right" to do something. The State cannot grant the right to marry. Marriage is a Yahweh-given freedom.

When you marry with a marriage license, you grant the State jurisdiction over your marriage. When you marry with a marriage license, your marriage is a creature of the State. It is a corporation of the State - "legal fiction" entity by definition!! Therefore, they have jurisdiction over your marriage including the *fruit* of your marriage. What is the fruit of your marriage? Your children and every piece of property you own. There is plenty of case law in America and elsewhere which proves this to be true.

In one example, parents, married by state license were upset because a test was being administered to their children in the government schools which was very invasive of the family's privacy. When these parents complained, they were shocked by the school bureaucrats who informed them that their children were required to take the test by law because they *(the government school*) had jurisdiction over their children. When these parents asked the bureaucrats what gave them this 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. Like the birth certificates, it effectively causes your children to become “legal chattel”, or property of the state.

When you marry with a marriage license, you place yourself under and bind yourself to a body of law which is immoral, or anti-Yahweh. By obtaining a marriage license, you place yourself under the jurisdiction of Family Court which is governed by unbiblical and immoral laws. *Under these artificial laws, you can divorce for any reason.* Often, the courts side with the spouse who is in rebellion to Yahweh, and castigates the spouse who remains faithful by ordering him or her not to speak about the Bible or other matters of faith when present with the children.

No minister of Yahweh can in good conscience perform a marriage which would place people under this immoral body of laws, let alone marry someone with a marriage license, because to do so the minister must act as an agent of the State in direct opposition to Yahweh!! The minister is required to sign the marriage license, and mail it into the State. Given the State's demand to usurp the place of Yahweh and the family regarding marriage, and given it's use of non-Biblical immoral laws to govern marriage, this would be an act of disobedience to Yahweh akin to treason.

The marriage license invades and removes Yahweh's God-given parental authority. When you read the Bible, you see that Yahweh intended for children to have their father's blessing regarding whom they married. Daughters were to be *given* in marriage *by their fathers (Dt. 22:16; Ex. 22:17; I Cor. 7:38)*. We have a vestige of this in our culture today in that the father takes his daughter to the front of the altar and the minister asks, "Who *gives* this woman to be married to this man?"

Historically, there was no requirement to obtain a marriage license in colonial America, or most countries for that matter. When you read the laws of the colonies and then the states, you see only two requirements for marriage. First, you had to obtain your parent's permission to marry, and second, you had to post public notice of the marriage for 5-15 days before the ceremony.

Notice you had to obtain your *parent's permission*. Back then you saw godly government displayed in that the State recognized the parent's authority by demanding that the parent's permission be obtained. Today, the all-encompassing ungodly State demands that *their [state's]* permission be obtained to marry.

By issuing marriage licenses, the State is saying, "You don't need your parent's permission, you need *our* permission." If parents are opposed to their child's marrying a certain person and refuse to give their permission, the child can do an end-run around the parent's authority by obtaining the State's permission, and marry anyway. This is an invasion and removal of Yahweh-given parental authority by the State.

When you marry with a marriage license, you are like a polygamist. From the State's point of view, when you marry with a marriage license, you are not just marrying your spouse, but you are also marrying the

State. Inasmuch as you have voluntarily conceded that the state's law supersedes Yahweh's law, and the state law says categorically that you have contracted with them!

A blatant declaration of this fact may be found in many state brochures across the nation where people go to obtain their marriage licenses. These are published by the various State Bar Associations. A common opening paragraph under the subtitle "Marriage Vows" states, *"Actually, when you repeat your marriage vows you enter into a legal contract. There are three parties to that contract. 1.You; 2. Your husband or wife, as the case may be; and 3. the State of ?????."*

See, the State and the lawyers know that when you marry with a marriage license, you are not just marrying your spouse, you are marrying the State! You are like a polygamist! You are not just making a vow to your spouse, but you are making a *contractual* vow to the State *and* your spouse, instead of to your spouse and to Yahweh, regardless of what you actually say in your oral vows! You are also giving undue jurisdiction to the State.

When Does the State Have Jurisdiction Over a Marriage? Never! Yahweh intended His congregation to have jurisdiction over a marriage for two reasons - 1). in the case of divorce, and 2). when crimes are committed i.e., adultery, bigamy. etc. Unfortunately, the state incorporated churches now allow divorce for any reason, and they do not prosecute for adultery, nor does the state which has bound them so.

In either case, divorce or crime, a marriage license is *not* necessary for the congregation or courts to determine whether a marriage existed or not. What is needed are witnesses. This is why you have a best man and a maid of honour. They should sign the marriage certificate in your family Bible, and the wedding day guest book should be kept.

Marriage was instituted by Yahweh, therefore it is a Yahweh-given freedom. According to Scripture, it is to be governed by the family, and the congregation, not the state, and the congregation only has jurisdiction in the cases of divorce or crime.

History establishes that George Washington was married *without* a marriage license. Abraham Lincoln was married *without* a marriage license. So, how did we come to this place in America and other countries where marriage licenses are issued?

Historically, all the states in America for example, had laws outlawing the marriage of blacks with whites. In the mid-1800's, certain states began allowing interracial marriages or miscegenation as long as those marrying received a license from the state. In other words they had to receive *permission to do an act which without such permission would have been illegal*.

Blacks Law Dictionary points to this historical fact when it defines "marriage license" as, *"A license or permission granted by public authority to persons who intend to intermarry."* "Intermarry" is defined in Black's Law Dictionary as, *"Miscegenation; mixed or interracial marriages."*

Not long after these licenses were first issued, some states began requiring *all* people who marry to obtain a marriage license, without regard to the true definition of the term. In 1923, the Federal Government established the Uniform Marriage and Marriage License Act *(they later established the Uniform Marriage and Divorce Act).*

By 1929, every state in the Union had adopted marriage license laws. Most British Commonwealth countries followed similar paths, ending with the same result. Many of these laws changed because of the influence of the United Nations. (People should also realize that a *"nation"* by legal definition, is a *"group of people that by law cannot own land"*!)

Israelite couples should not be marrying with State marriage licenses, nor should ministers be marrying people with State marriage licenses. Some may say to you, "If someone is married without a marriage license, then they aren't really married."

Given the fact that states may soon legalize same-sex marriages, we need to ask ourselves, "If a man and a man marry *with* a State marriage license, and a man and woman marry *without* a State marriage license - *who's really married?* Is it the two men *with* a marriage license, or the man and woman *without* a marriage license, but with their parent's approval and Yahweh's blessing? In reality, this contention that people are not really married unless they obtain a marriage license simply reveals how brainwashed we are in our thinking. We need to think biblically.

We do not have to obtain a license from the State to marry someone anymore than we have to obtain a license from the State to be a parent, which some in academic and legislative circles are currently pushing to be made into law.

When a couple marry, they should always obtain their own private Family Bible which contains birth and death records, and a record of marriage vows *[certificate]* that they complete themselves. They then record the marriage in that Family Bible. What's recorded in a Family Bible will stand up as legal evidence in any court of law in any country including America.

If the authority to marry belongs to Yahweh and to a couple's own families rather than to the State, as argued above, the same principle governs the far more consequential question of who holds the authority to end a marriage. A covenant that required no civil license to form cannot be dissolved simply because a civil court grants a decree; only the terms Yahweh Himself attaches to the marriage covenant — and, as the Hebrew word study below shows, the very presence of His own Name sealed into that covenant — can determine when, if ever, it may rightly come apart.

<u>Marriage and Divorce</u>

Why are we seeing such a high divorce rate within our nations? Recent statistics by Barna, show that the divorce rate within the “Christian” denominations is 7% higher than the denominations of the worldly. Some of the issues we can state as part of the problem are:

1. Dating/Boyfriend/Girlfriend: was not instituted till the 17th century. Dating encourages multiple relationships, if things don't work out after you're married, then let's try someone else.

2. Not taking Yahweh's Marriage Covenant, as a

Universal Law (*Gen. 2:22-24; Matt. 19:5,6; Eph. 5:31; Mal. 2:14-16*).

3. Reconciliation: We are to repent and ask forgiveness as Yahweh has left a door open for all broken marriages and that is "Reconciliation". But man is too stiff-necked to humble himself to receive the blessing.

I Cor. 7:11, "But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife."

Reconciled *(#2644 Greek)*: To change mutually, to compound a difference.

Gen. 2:22-24, "...and brought her unto the man ...This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." V. 24: states that because of the agreements to the covenant, they shall never be two again.

Cleave (Hebrew #1692): To glue adhere. To unite as to be united closely in interest or affection, to adhere with strong attachment. *[Yahweh brought them together, forming the covenant between them. Here we have Adam accepting Eve and calling her his wife. This is the institution of the marriage covenant, between man and woman, husband and wife.]* *Mal. 2:14-16* (Ref. *Deut. 24:1; Matt. 5:32; 19: 8*), *"Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because Yahweh hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. And did not he make one? ...And wherefore one? ...take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth."*

*Matt. 19:5,6 (*Ref. *Gen. 2:24, Eph. 5:31), "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 Yahweh hath joined together, let not man put asunder."* (Divorce see #3748 below.)

Asunder *(#5563, Greek)*: to place, room between, i.e. part, to go away - depart, put asunder, separate.

Divorce *(#3748 Hebrew)* from 3772: a cutting *(of the Matrimonial bond)* i.e. divorce - divorcement) 3772, a prim. root; to cut *(off, down or ASUNDER*; by impl. To destroy or consume; spec, to covenant. *[Here we have in the concordance confirmation, that there is a matrimonial bond, and that divorce is putting the marriage vow asunder. It is man that is putting asunder the Marriage Covenant by divorcing and remarrying.]* Divorce violates the covenant that Yahweh made between man and woman (*Gen. 2:24, Matt. 19:5,6*).

Bond *(Hebrew, #632):* an obligation, vow from #631: to yoke or hitch.

In an 1884 law textbook *Parsons on Contracts* with this quote from the chapter "*marriage is a contract*": "*since the State married them the children were fruits of the State.*"

How did you delegate to your servants *(Government)* the authority to separate you from your wife, contrary to: Mark 10:9, "*What therefore Yahweh hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*"

We know that we could not cancel our neighbours' vows to *[Yahweh]*, so we know that divorce court could not cancel anyone's vows to [Yahweh].

How can you delegate the authority to bastardize your neighbours' children, when the authority does not originally reside within you?

It turns out that we did not delegate this authority. Apparently there are two meanings of the word *'marriage,'* one meaning *"holy matrimony"* and the other refers to a status akin to corporate merger within the Government.

It should seem peculiar that people who have a right to get married would have to beg civil servants for permission *(license = permission)* to get married. We read in the 1877 U.S. Supreme Court decisions Meister v. Moore 96 US 80, that a marriage license was not required, nor do States confer the right to marry, and that marriage is based on contract.

This is consistent with the Bible, and it makes sense that the Supreme Court would confirm that this most sacred of family freedoms does not involve man-made Government. Since your Constitution prohibits any State from impairing the obligation of contracts *(U.S. Constitution, article 1, section 10)* the sanctity of the family is safe from Government interference.

Then we read in the 1888 US Supreme Court decision in Maynard v. Hill 8 SCt 723 125 US 190, where the Maynard's had intermarried in the State of Vermont *(meaning they had a license*) and that marriage was NOT based on contract but upon a *status,* and the Government could do whatever it wanted to do with the marriage because a State created the *status* of marriage.

Asking permission to get married is a voluntary, albeit unwitting confession that you do not know that you have a right to get married. By applying for a marriage license, you've waived your actual right to get married.

When the law says that the State cannot recognize a common law marriage, it doesn't mean you're not married. It means the State cannot take your children nor divorce you. [Yahweh's] laws prevail. Your family is not part of their corporation. Your family does not have existence in the eyes of their laws.

Ignorance of the law is no excuse. You should have known *(as did the Supreme Court in Murdock v. Pennsylvania 319 US 105)* that *"A state may not, through a license tax, impose a charge for the enjoyment of a right granted by the Federal Constitution."* By paying for a marriage license, you confess that you did not

have a right to get married. The power to tax is the power to destroy. What part of *"let no man put asunder"* do we not understand?"

How this comes about concerning the marriage license starts with being registered at birth, by a birth certificate making you a corporate entity by the Government.

Yahweh made the original marriage constitution of man as one pair, a male and female; as such by divine appointment; and to the purpose of Yahweh, expressed by the sacred historian that in all time one man, one woman should by marriage become one flesh, so to continue as long as both are in the flesh.

This being *[Yahweh's]* constitution, let not man break it up by causeless divorces *(from Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary)*. Divorce may be legal according to man-made laws which 'marry/incorporate' two fictional 'persons/corporate entities', but it is not right according to Yahweh's Law where marriage is an act between a man and his wife sanctioned by Yahweh.

Yahweh expects couples to practice commitment to each other and remain true to each other. Too many people view divorce as an easy way out, and do not take seriously their covenant vow of commitment to each other, or to Yahweh and Yah'shua.

1 Cor. 7:27, "Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be

loosed [27]. Art thou loosed [28] from a wife? seek not a wife."

Loosed [27]: Strong's #3089 luo- breakup, dissolve.

Loosed [28]: Strong's #3080 luis - a loosening, that is specifically divorce. *(From the Word of Yahweh, KJV)*

Marriage: Rendering of several word phrases in Hebrew and Greek means to be master; to take, that is a wife; to magnify and lift up, to contract. In all the Hebrew Scriptures there is no single word for the estate of marriage or to express the abstract idea of wedlock.

The Word that confirms the vow, covenant, you make with Yahweh and your mate: is "TO TAKE" OR "I TOOK" in Scripture:

Hosea 1:2,3, "...And Yahweh said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife..."

Take: 3947: Prim. root: to take *(in the widest variety of application)*; accept, bring, buy, carry away, drawn, fetch, get, infold, mingle, place, receive *(-ing)*, reserve,

Some examples of Biblical Scripture, "take or took" are the following: *Gen. 24:67; 25:1,20; 29:23;* 1 Kings 16:31; Hosea 1:2-3; Matt. 1:24.

The past touches the tip of the marriage covenant, let's look at the views of the early assembly, as they were against re-marriage.

1. PATRISTIC VIEW: The early assembly fathers said if divorce occurs, marriage to a 2nd spouse is not permitted, regardless of the cause. This was from first century on. Adultery was not grounds for divorce.

2. THE AUGUSTINIAN VIEW: Marriage to a 2nd spouse is not permitted even when adultery is involved.

3. BLOOD-RELATED OR UNLAWFUL MARRIAGE VIEW: Unlawful marriages would be like two men, or a sister and a brother, or a son and a mother, those were unlawful marriages which Yahweh wouldn't recognize, even if they made vows.

Other than that, relatives and so forth, neither divorced nor married to a 2nd spouse is ever permitted, regardless of the circumstances.

4. BETROTHAL ENGAGEMENT VIEW: Matthew's Exception refers to the engagement position; "Betrothal", *[which was more binding than engagement and it was as if they were married. They were promised to each other, not given to each other.*

Divorce was allowed due to fornication if the act was found out before the wedding night (not 5, or 10 years later)*, if she was not found a virgin on the wedding night she was stoned to death according to Deut. 22:13-21.]*

For the first 1500 years, this was the stand that the assembly knew and no other position was taught!

HOW DID REMARRIAGE COME INTO THE ASSEMBLY?

1. ERASMIAN OR TRADITIONAL PROTESTANT VIEW: Erasmus introduced remarriage into the denominations in the 1500s, during the Protestant Re-formation. He tried to fellowship with John Calvin and Martin Luther, but they both would have nothing to do with him.

Erasmus lived during the time of King Henry VIII of England. Henry VIII wanted to get his marriage annulled, because his wife would not give him a male child, and the Roman denomination was having a battle with him. They wanted him to submit to them and he wouldn't do it. This was when divorce for immorality or adultery was accepted and the marriage to a 2nd spouse, especially the innocent party, was allowed. This was called the Matthew Pauline Exception Theory.

Dr. Frank Logsdon, who was behind the N.A.S.V. *(New American Standard Version),* did damage to the Word of Yahweh. His statement was, "*I'm afraid I'm in trouble with the Lord, I laid the ground work, I wrote the format, I helped interview some of the translators. I sat with the translators, I wrote the preface, I'm in trouble*".

The New Translations which use "sexual immorality" instead of fornication have totally perverted that Greek word.

In the Old Covenant, when was adultery ever grounds for divorce? It is not saying in Matthew chapters 5 and 19, that just sexual immorality, it is a specific type. It is fornication which is between singles.

Adultery is between married people. You don't find this word fornication in any other book, other than Matthew, because Matthew was written to the Hebrews. Yah'shua had to deal with the Hebrews in a particular situation, they had what was called, the "Betrothal period". You can violate a Marriage Covenant, but according to Yahweh you can't destroy it.

DOES YAHWEH RECOGNIZE THE UNBELIEVER'S MARRIAGE?

Gentile, Jew, or Israelite believer, whoever was the descendant of Adam, Yahweh established the universal law of marriage. *Matt. 19:8,9, "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. 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."*

First of all, it says the Pharisees came to tempt Yah'shua; to trick Him (v.3). Yah'shua stated from the beginning of time, it was not so. It was twisted by man to fulfill the desires of the flesh. The "trick", was the fact that a woman cannot be found in the act of adultery, unless a man is also found with her, and both are equally guilty! Thus Yah'shua knew all of her accusers were guilty of at least one sin, which was the false accusation.

When you make your vow and say, "I take" or "I took," you enter the marriage covenant. Yahweh makes you one flesh; believer or unbeliever, it doesn't matter.

Gen. 4:16,17 Yahweh recognized that Cain went out from His presence and he got married.

Gen. 20:1-18 Here was an unbeliever, Abimelech. Yahweh recognized Abimelech's marriage.

Gen. 39:7-9 Potiphar wasn't a believer yet Yahweh recognized his marriage.

Gen. 41:45 Joseph married an Egyptian, Asenath; she was not a believer. Yahweh recognized that marriage.

1 Kings 16:30,31; Daniel 6:24 Yahweh recognized these marriages.

Matt. 14:1-4 John told Herod that according to Yahweh *(the universal law of marriage)* he was not to have his brother Philip's wife. Yahweh recognized that marriage.

Matt. 27:19 The Spirit of Yahweh recognized that Pilate was married. If Yahweh doesn't recognize unbelievers' marriages than the believers are the only ones who can commit adultery. It really doesn't matter what any man's opinion is, the Scriptures are the final authority.

WHAT ABOUT A FOOLISH COVENANT?

Gen. 25:29 Esau had come from the field, he was faint and asked Jacob for pottage. Jacob took advantage of the situation. V31: Jacob said to Esau, *"Sell me this day thy birthright"*. Esau said, "I'm starving and your worried about my birthright?" V33:

Jacob said to Esau, *"Swear to me this day"* (literally saying vow to Yahweh it belongs to me.) Swear (Strong's # 7650): oath. Esau then makes an oath to Jacob to sell his birthright. V34, Esau sold his birthright. Many will say that was two brothers just fooling around, Yahweh is not going to hold them accountable.

Did Yahweh hold him accountable? *Gen. 27:34-36; Heb. 12:16,17*. He lost his blessing and birthright. There are quite a few people that make a vow to Yahweh before witnesses, of a covenant they make to each other on their Wedding Day and then say: "I really didn't love her", or "I was young and foolish", or "I did not realize what life was all about." "Yahweh will not hold me to that vow." *Heb. 12:14-17, "Follow peace with all men, and set apartness, without which no man shall see Yahweh." V16:"... lest there be any fornicator [doer of sexual sins], or profane person [one who is careless of what Yahweh says]."*

Esau sold his birthright. Esau repented of his foolish vow; however, there was still a consequence for his words. Yahweh could not change the covenant, as it would have violated His set-apartness, righteousness and judgment. Yahweh heard the words of Esau and Jacob and acted on it. *Deut. 23:21-23, Eccl. 5:4-6, "Thou shalt not forswear thyself; (you will not violate your vow to Yahweh, but fulfill all of them) but shalt perform unto Yahweh thine oath." Matt. 5:37, "But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil."*

This was stated after Yah'shua talked about divorce. Any covenant, whether borne out of a lie, foolish, flippant or in ignorance, is still a covenant in Yahweh's eyes. He will forgive your foolishness or ignorance, but that will not and does not affect or make void the covenant. It stands because it was a decision not a feeling. Yahweh does not demand that we marry the one we love, but He does command us to love the one we marry. "That is not a suggestion but a divine command."

When you translate "woman" and "man" to Hebrew you will see two divine elements. When you combine the two "Divine Elements" contained in both these Hebrew words you get y h *(yod, hei)*. When you combine the Yod and the Hei it creates the name "YAH" which is the shortened, poetic form of our Father's Name, Yahweh...See *Ps. 68:4*.

So the combination of a man and woman into a "Covenantal Marriage" relationship, at least in the "beginning," *(the first marriage)* has the "Seal of Approval," by being stamped with the VERY NAME OF "YAH", being a Witness to your Marriage Covenant (Mal. 2:14).

What Yahweh has joined together let no man put asunder, after He seals His name on your marriage covenant, it cannot be destroyed. Notice what happens if Yahweh our Heavenly Father should lose His place among the married couple. If you remove the "Divine Elements." of both Hebrew terms, the one for,

"Man", [c *(y)* a] which is yod and the one for, "Woman", [*(h) c a*] which is hei. By removing the y (yod) from the man, and the h *(hei)* from the woman, in both instances it leaves you with c a.

The combination of these two Hebrew letters form the word for "FIRE". So, by removing Yahweh's presence *(signature)* in a marriage relationship you have destined that marriage to a "Fiery Destruction." The second relationship starts under a "Fiery Destruction."

NEVER FORGET, – YAHWEH FORGIVES SIN!

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