

*The*  
Covenant Marriage  
Wedding Ceremony  
*of*  
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*and*  
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**Sources:**

Portions of this pamphlet are from a variety of sources, including: "*Sovereign Christian Marriage*" by Sovereignty Education and Defense Ministry (God's Plan vs. Man's Plan); "*5 Reasons Why Christians Should Not Obtain a State Marriage License*" by Rev. Matthew Trewhella of Mercy Seat Christian Church, also on HushMoney.org (History of Marriage Licenses & Marriage License..Why Not?); "*A Case for Evangelical Covenant Marriage*" by John Cobin, Ph. D. (portions of text). Some information has been altered or omitted to better suit the purpose of this document.

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## To Our Families

Thank you for joining us today in celebrating our union and our new life together. It is our honor today to be able to be with you all during this exciting time in our lives.

It is our goal today to come together sincerely and solely under the marriage plan instituted by God. Marriage in its purest form -- the covenant marriage. It is our hope and prayer that our ceremony today will be a living example of what God intended for marriage.

Today it is commonly accepted that one of the first steps toward getting married is to first obtain a marriage license from the state. Through study and prayer we have determined that we will not be obtaining a state-issued marriage license. Instead, we will be entering together into a Biblical covenant marriage relationship. We would like to share some information with you about the history of marriage and also share with you the negative impact that licensing can bring about. We hope that you will keep an open mind and that this information can and will be helpful to you and your loved ones in the future.

Sincerely,

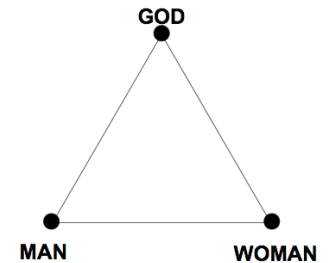
Sara & Cliff

*"He who finds a wife finds a GOOD thing, and obtains favor from the Lord."*

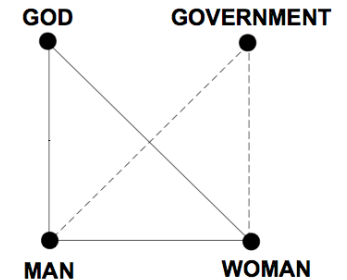
- Proverbs 18:22

## God's Plan vs. Man's Plan

Marriage is a covenant ordained by God. It is probably the most sacred and permanent covenant that two people can make to each other. The choice of marriage partner is one of the most important choices a person can make, as it has a tremendous affect on life, liberty and property. God intended marriage to be a lifelong commitment. God intended for marriage to be a covenant between you, your partner, and God...making it a triangle. A triangle is the strongest geometric shape in nature.



For Christians, this relationship can only be defined by God's laws found in the Bible. This is not the job of the government, because they will invite themselves into that relationship and destroy the triangle by making it into a square. A square is the weakest shape in nature and this destabilizes families and creates an insecure place for your children and their posterity. The dotted lines in the diagram here represent man's laws, which are often in conflict with God's laws. Notice also that God and government are at the same level and that they are above the spouses, because the spouses must serve and obey both God and government.



*"No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."*

- Luke 16:13

## *History of Marriage Licenses*

George Washington was married without a marriage license. So, how did we come to this place in America where marriage licenses are issued?

Historically, all the states in America had laws outlawing the marriage of blacks and 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." "Inter-marry" is defined in Black's Law Dictionary as, "Miscegenation; mixed or interracial marriages."

Give the state an inch and they will take a 100 miles. Not long after these licenses were issued, some states began requiring all people who marry to obtain a marriage license. 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.

## *Marriage License... Why Not?*

**Every year thousands 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 do it because their pastor has told them to go get one, and besides, "everybody else gets one." This portion attempts to answer the question - "why should we not get one?"**

**1. The definition of a "license" demands 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 God instituted (Gen. 2:18-24)? We should 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. It is a God-given right. Furthermore, States enact legislation and issue decrees, but neither of these things can abrogate or modify the law of marriage established by God.

**2. 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! 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 American jurisprudence which declares this to be true.

In 1993, parents were upset 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.

**3. When you marry with a marriage license, you place yourself under a body of law which is immoral.** By obtaining a marriage license, you place yourself under the jurisdiction of Family Court which is governed by unbiblical and immoral laws. Under these laws, you can divorce for any reason. Often, the courts side with the spouse who is in rebellion to God, 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.

**4. The marriage license invades and removes God-given parental authority.** When you read the Bible, you see that God 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). Historically, there was no requirement to obtain a marriage license in colonial America. 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 parents permission to marry, and second, you had to post public notice of the marriage 5-15 days before the ceremony.

Notice you had to obtain your parents permission. Back then you saw godly government displayed in that the State recognized the parents authority by demanding that the parents permission be obtained. Today, the all-encompassing ungodly State demands that only their permission be obtained to marry.

By issuing marriage licenses, the State is saying, "You don't need your parents 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 parents authority by obtaining the State's permission, and marry anyway. This is an invasion and removal of God-given parental authority by the State.

**5. 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.** One of the most blatant

declarations of this fact is from a brochure entitled "With This Ring I Thee Wed." It has been found in county courthouses across Ohio where people go to obtain their marriage licenses. It is published by the Ohio State Bar Association. The 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 Ohio."

### *Final Word*

God created man and provided him with a companion through the law of marriage. Man created the Constitution which delegated certain limited powers to the government. God established His law for marriage far before the existence of any civil government. Our founders knew that over the course of time, if allowed to do so, government would slowly attempt to eradicate our liberties and God-given rights. Sadly, everything we do today requires permission from the government...



...or does it?

Today, the two of us will begin our lives together under the plan instituted by God -- marriage. It is our hope and prayer that He receives the honor and glory and that He will bless our coming together and our future as one.

"Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

- Matthew 19:6