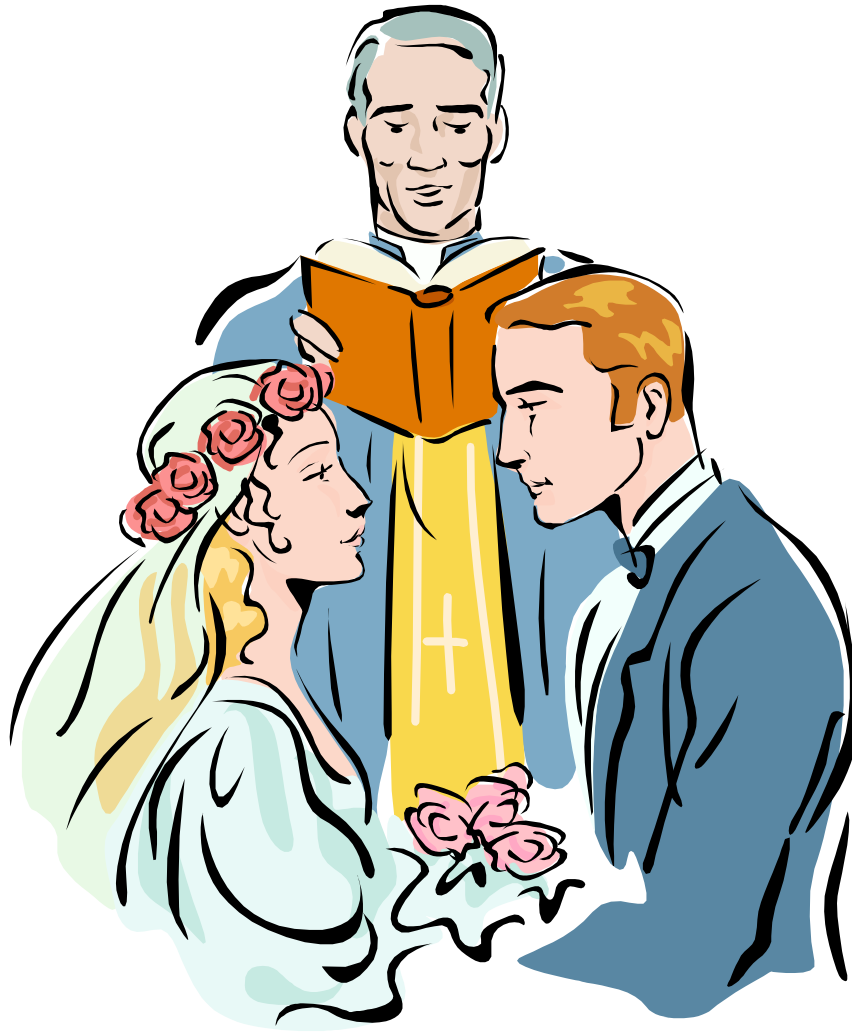


Sovereign Christian Marriage



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Version 1.24

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Sovereignty Education and Defense Ministry (SEDM)
<http://sedm.org/>

REVISION HISTORY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Version</i>	<i>Description</i>
3/13/02	1.06	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Modified section 3.1.1.3 to add more details about Confidential Marriage Licenses. 2. Added section 3.2 entitled “Marriage License Issuance and Recording Requirements. 3. Added item 22.5 in section 6.2. 4. Added item 23 to section 6.1.2.
3/25/02	1.07	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revised section 3.1.1.3 to replace the jurat on the Confidential Marriage License with the proper one.
4/9/02	1.08	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Added sections 6.1 through 6.3. 2. Revised sections 6.4.2 and 6.5 to add place to initial for attached financial spreadsheet.
5/9/02	1.09	Completely revised section 6.1.
5/30/02	1.10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updated introduction to the marriage contract in section 6.5 to mention what needs to be written on the Confidential Marriage License. 2. Added section 4.4. 3. Added section 4.6 entitled “Civil Disobedience to Corrupt Governments is a Biblical Mandate” 4. Expanded section 5.1.2.
4/19/03	1.11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Corrected cover page links, which have recently changed. 2. Removed phone number from cover page. 3. Added a quote from 2 Cor. 6:17-18 to section 1.3.\ 4. Added a table of authorities to be Preface. 5. Added section 4.3: Government as idolatry/religion.
7/27/03	1.12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Added item 13 to the table in section 2.2. 2. Eliminated errors in section 4.3. 3. Added section 4.5 entitled “The Female Need for Economic Security: Idolatry and slavery”. 4. Removed personal references from section 1.4 to make it more generic.
8/3/03	1.13	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Corrected formatting problems in section 4.4. Also added a cite from Isaiah 3:12 to section 4.4. 2. Edited section 4.8 to make it clearer. 3. Replaced the missing graphic in section 4.8.
8/5/03	1.14	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updated section 4.3 to add an article by Humberto Nunez entitled “The Government is a Pagan Cult and We’ve All Been Drinking the Kool-Aide”. 2. Added a “List of Tables” after the “Table of Contents”.
8/16/03	1.15	Replaced all references to “familyguardian.tzo.com” to “famguardian.org”.
1/8/04	1.16	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expanded the description of the Notice of Intent to Marry in section 6.4.1. 2. Added section 3.2 on Common Law Marriage. 3. Renamed chapter 3. 4. Rewrote the introduction to Chapter 1. 5. Added a Table of Figures at the beginning of the document.
1/14/04	1.17	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Edited section 6.4.1, 6.4.2, and 6.5 to point to a place to download the electronic version of the forms.
2/29/04	1.18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reorganized section 1.4 and corrected grammar errors. Expanded the section and also renamed it. 2. Fixed the missing picture at the beginning of section 4.3.
3/14/04	1.19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updated the copyright notice on the front cover. 2. Added section 4.4: Where the way of the world and a corrupted government have taken us. 3. Fixed several spelling errors.
4/30/04	1.20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fixed several typos throughout the document.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Version</i>	<i>Description</i>
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Added section 3.2.9: Converting Statutory Marriages into Common Law Marriages 3. Modified sections 6.4.2 and 6.5 to add a quote from <i>Olmstead v. United States</i>, 277 U.S. 438 (1928).
1/21/05	1.21	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Renamed chapter 3 to add the word “Divorce”. 2. Added section 3.3. 3. Expanded section 2.5.7. 4. Moved section 2.5.7 to section 3.1.
8/19/05	1.22	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Renamed chapter 2. 2. Added section 2.1: Sovereignty. 3. Added section 3.2 entitled “What exactly is the state “licensing” with a marriage license?”.
12/15/05	1.23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updated section 4.6. 2. Added section 6.6. 3. Added section 6.4.
11/21/06	1.24	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved formatting throughout document. 2. Modified introduction in Chapter 1.

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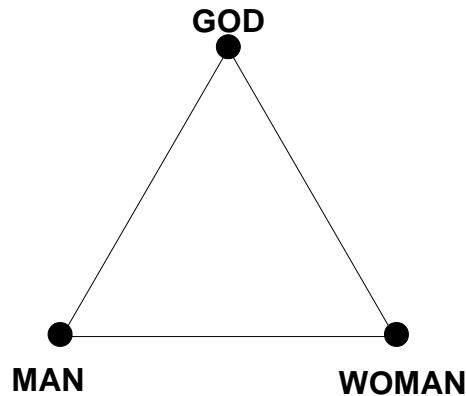
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1. INTRODUCTION

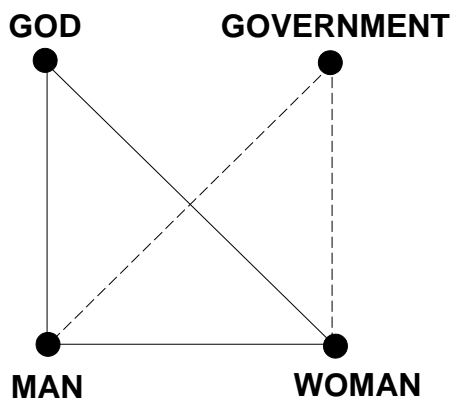
Marriage is a contract ordained by God. It is probably the most sacred and permanent type of contract or covenant that two people can make to each other. Your choice of marriage partner is the most important choice you will ever make, and it will have more affect on your liberty, property, and life than any other choice you will make except that of your choice of religious faith. The terms of the marriage contract that you and your mate specify will literally dictate the rest of your life, because marriage is intended by God to be a lifelong commitment. God intended for marriage to be a contract between you, your partner, and God...making it a triangle. A triangle is the strongest geometric shape in nature.

Figure 1-1: Diagram of God's plan for marriage



The lines in the above triangle represent the relationship established between the parties by the contract. That relationship can only be defined by God's laws found in the Bible for Christians. Don't let the government write that contract, 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 below 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 (e.g. worship) both God and government.

Figure 1-2: Man's corrupted and debased version of marriage in competition and defiance of God's plan



If you allow the government through your apathy and indifference to invite itself into your life using the marriage contract they write on your behalf, you will be serving two masters, and not one: God and government. Procuring a marriage license from the state delegates total authority over your life, your children, and all your property to the state and makes you a polygamist by making you party to a private contract. You marry TWO people, not one: the state and your spouse.

[4] In all domestic concerns each state of the Union is to be deemed an independent sovereignty. As such, it is its province and its duty to forbid interference by another state as well as by any foreign power with the status of its own citizens. Unless at least one of the spouses is a resident thereof in good faith, the courts of such sister state or of such foreign power cannot acquire jurisdiction to dissolve the marriage of those who have an established domicile in the state which resents such interference with matters which disturb its social serenity or affect the morals of its inhabitants. [5] Jurisdiction over divorce proceedings of residents of California by the courts of a sister state cannot be conferred by agreement of the litigants. [6] As protector of the morals of her people it is the duty of a court of this commonwealth to prevent the dissolution of a marriage by the decree of a court of another jurisdiction pursuant to the collusion of the spouses. If by surrendering its power it evades the performance of such duty, marriage will ultimately be considered as a formal device and its dissolution freed from legal inhibitions. [7] Not only is a divorce of California [81 Cal.App.2d 880] residents by a court of another state void because of the plaintiff's lack of bona fide residence in the foreign state, but it is void also for lack of the court's jurisdiction over the State of California. [8] This state is a party to every marriage contract of its own residents as well as the guardian of their morals. Not only can the litigants by their collusion not confer jurisdiction upon Nevada courts over themselves but neither can they confer such jurisdiction over this state.

[9] It therefore follows that a judgment of divorce by a court of Nevada without first having pursuant to its own laws acquired...

[Roberts v. Roberts, 81 Cal.App.2d 871 [Civ. No. 15818. Second Dist., Div. Two. Oct. 17, 1947]

JUSTICE MAAG delivered the opinion of the court: This action was brought in April of 1993 by Carolyn and John West (grandparents) to obtain visitation rights with their grandson, Jacob Dean West. Jacob was born January 27, 1992. He is the biological son of Ginger West and Gregory West, Carolyn and John's deceased son...

However, this constitutionally protected parental interest is not wholly without limit or beyond regulation. *Prince v. Commonwealth of Massachusetts*, 321 U.S. 158, 166, 88 L. Ed. 645, 64 S. Ct. 438, 442 (1944). "[T]he state has a wide range of power for limiting parental freedom and authority in things affecting the child's welfare." *Prince*, 321 U.S. at 167, 88 L. Ed. 645, 64 S. Ct. at 442. In fact, the entire familial relationship involves the State. When two people decide to get married, they are required to first procure a license from the State. If they have children of this marriage, they are required by the State to submit their children to certain things, such as school attendance and vaccinations. Furthermore, if at some time in the future the couple decides the marriage is not working, they must petition the State for a divorce. Marriage is a three-party contract between the man, the woman, and the State. *Linneman v. Linneman*, 1 Ill. App. 2d 48, 50, 116 N.E.2d 182, 183 (1953), citing *Van Koten v. Van Koten*, 323 Ill. 323, 326, 154 N.E. 146 (1926). The State represents the public interest in the institution of marriage. Linneman, 1 Ill. App. 2d at 50, 116 N.E.2d at 183. This public interest is what allows the State to intervene in certain situations to protect the interests of members of the family. The State is like a silent partner in the family who is not active in the everyday running of the family but becomes active and exercises its power and authority only when necessary to protect some important interest of family life. Taking all of this into consideration, the question no longer is whether the State has an interest or place in disputes such as the one at bar, but it becomes a question of timing and necessity. Has the State intervened too early or perhaps intervened where no intervention was warranted? This question then directs our discussion to an analysis of the provision of the Act that allows the challenged State intervention (750 ILCS 5/607(b) (West 1996)). [West v. West, 689 N.E.2d 1215 (1998)]

The Bible says in no uncertain terms that Christians cannot contract with the state or make the state into their master, because it amounts to idolatry towards government:

"No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

[Jesus

[God] speaking in the Bible, Luke 16:13]

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage to the government or the income tax."

[Galatians 5:1, Bible, NKJV]

This document will therefore explain why it is anti-biblical for Christians to get a marriage license, why we are denying our faith and our God and practicing idolatry by doing so. We will describe the biblical and legal foundations for marriage and explain why and how Christians can and should get married in the eyes of God but without a state marriage license. This type

of marriage arrangement is called a “Sovereign Christian Marriage” in this book. We will then conclude this document with a marriage contract that both parties have read and agree to.

NOTE: This document is intended to be used *only* for couples wishing to get married, both of whom are Christians and who have a commitment to following all of the teachings and commandments in the bible. These are the only types of people capable of the kind of self-governance necessary to build a strong and lasting marriage without government intervention. We do not recommend a Sovereign Christian Marriage between two people who are *not* believers.

The Apostle Paul warned us not to be cheated by vain philosophy as follows:

“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”
[Col. 2:8, Bible, NKJV]

Consequently, we take great pains in this book to show the biblical foundations for everything we advocate and tie everything back to the word of God. The result is a marriage totally conformed to the will of God and minimally conformed to the “traditions of men”, which in this case are embodied in the laws of your state regarding marriage and divorce.

1.1 Dedication

Psalm 127:1

“Unless the Lord builds the house,
They labor in vain who build it”

Psalm 128:1-6

“Blessed is every one who fears the Lord
Who walks in His ways,
When you eat the labor of your hands,
You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.
Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine
In the very heart of your house.
Your children like olive plants
All around your table.
Behold, thus shall the man be blessed
Who fears the Lord.”

Prov. 18:22:

“He who finds a wife finds a GOOD thing, and obtains favor from the Lord.”

Matt 7:24-25:

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.”

1.2 Sovereign Christian Marriage Defined

“The scripture warns us against those who change the grace of God into a license [from the government, maybe even a marriage license] for immorality, thus denying Jesus as sovereign and Lord.” Dr. James Dobson, Focus on the Family

Sovereign Christian Marriage: A spiritual and legal relation between a man and a woman that replicates or recreates as closely as possible the relationship that Adam and Eve enjoyed as documented in the Bible in the book of Genesis. Such a relationship honors the 10 commandments documented in Exodus 20, the first and most important of which is to put the Lord first in our priority list, and above our allegiance to the world or government.

“You shall have no other gods [including government] before Me.”
[Exodus 20:3]