

Really Traditional Marriage

On January 29, 2004, the **Presidential Prayer Team™** urged all Americans to:

Pray for the President as he works with lawmakers to codify marriage as being between one man and one woman. Pray that biblical principles will be honored by lawmakers, and that marriage will [sic] be strengthened.[1]

Any good religious person believes prayer should be balanced by action. So here, in support of the Prayer Team's admirable goals, is a proposed Constitutional Amendment codifying marriage entirely on Biblical principles.[2]

- A. Marriage in the United States shall consist of a union between one man and one or more women.[3,4]
- B. Marriage shall not impede a man's right to take concubines in addition to his wife or wives.[5,6,7]
- C. A marriage shall be considered valid only if the wife is a virgin. If the wife is not a virgin, she shall be executed.[8]

1 http://www.presidentialprayerteam.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ppt_Archive_040129

2 These suggestions were circulated widely on the Internet and have been posted in many places on the Web. The Biblical texts have been added to the footnotes by Prof M. E. Kabay of Norwich University.

3 “And Laban had two daughters... Leah... and... Rachel.... And he [Laban] gave him [Jacob] Rachel, his daughter, as his wife also.” (Gen 29:16-28).

4 “And unto David were sons born in Hebron; and his first-born was Amnon, of Ahinoam, the Jezreelitess; and his second, Chileab, of Abigail, the wife of Nabal, the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom, the son of Maacah, the daughter of Talmal, king of Geshur; and the fourth, Adonijah, the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah, the son of Abital; and the sixth, Ithream, by Eglah, David’s wife. These were born to David in Hebron.” (II Sam 3:2-5)

5 “And David took him more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he was come from Hebron; and there were yet sons and daughters born to David. (II Sam 5:13).

6 “And he [King Solomon] had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.” (I Kings 11:3).

7 “And Rehoboam loved Maacah, the daughter of Absalom, above all his wives and his concubines (for he took eighteen wives, and threescore concubines, and begot twenty and eight sons, and threescore daughters). (II Chron 11:21).

8 “If any man take a wife, and go in unto her, and hate her... and say, I took this woman, and when I came to her, I found her not a maid;... If this thing be true, and the tokens of virginity be not found for the damsel, then they shall bring out the damsel to the door of her father’s house, and the men of her city shall stone her with stones that she die. . . .” (Deut 22:13-21).

- D. Marriage between a believer and a nonbeliever shall be forbidden.[9,10,11,12]
- E. Since marriage is for life, neither this Constitution nor the constitution of any State, nor any state or federal law, shall be construed to permit divorce.[13]
- F. If a married man dies without children, his brother shall marry the widow. If he refuses to marry his brother's widow or deliberately does not give her children, he shall die or pay a fine of one shoe, be publicly humiliated and be otherwise punished in a manner to be determined by law.[14,15]
- G. But if a man's wife fails to please him, whatever the reason, he can divorce her on his own authority and simply expel her from their home without recourse to law.[16]

-
- 9 “And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the G-d of heaven, and the G-d of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell.” (Gen 24:3).
- 10 “And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit harlotry with the daughters of Moab.... And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one of his men that were joined unto Baal-peor. And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel.... And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; and he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her abdomen.” (Num 25:1-9).
- 11 “Now, therefore, give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth forever....” (Ezra 9:12).
- 12 “And that we would not give our daughters unto the people of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons.” (Neh 10:30).
- 13 “And they two shall be one flesh; so then they are no more two, but one flesh. What, therefore, G-d hath joined together, let not man put asunder.... Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.” (Mark 10:8-12).
- 14 “And Judah said unto Onan, Go in unto thy brother’s wife, and marry her, and raise up seed to thy brother. And Onan knew that the seed should not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in unto his brother’s wife, that he spilled it on the ground, lest that he should give seed to his brother. And the thing which he did displeased the LORD; wherefore he slew him also.” (Gen 38:8-10).
- 15 “If the brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry outside the family unto a stranger; her husband’s brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him as his wife, and perform the duty of an husband’s brother unto her.... And if the man desire not to take his brother’s wife, ... then shall his brother’s wife come unto him in the presence of the elders, and loose his shoe from off his foot, and spit in his face, and shall answer and say, So shall it be done unto that man who will not build up his brother’s house. And his name shall be called in Israel, The house of him who hath his shoe loosed.” (Deut 25:5-10).
- 16 “When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favor 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.” (Deut 24.1).