

# WCF 24 Of Marriage and Divorce

*The only thing I like more than my wife is my money, and I'm not about to lose that to her and her lawyers, that's for damn sure. -Jon Bon Jovi*

1. Marriage is to be between one man and one woman: neither is it lawful for any man to have more than one wife, nor for any woman to have more than one husband, at the same time.

Affirmation of Monogamy-

Vertical Fidelity- (Greatest Commandment)-

Expressed by Horizontal Fidelity- (Second Greatest Commandment) first codified in marital command to "leave, cling, hold fast." (Gen. 2:23)

Objections:

What of Polygamy?

What of 1 Timothy 3:2, 12 (elder/deacon husbands of one wife)?

2. Marriage was ordained for the mutual help of husband and wife, for the increase of mankind with a legitimate issue, and of the Church with an holy seed; and for preventing of uncleanness.

Mutual Help (in framework of submission)-

General Propagation-

Increase of the Church-

Preventing Uncleanness-

3. It is lawful for all sorts of people to marry, who are able with judgment to give their consent. Yet it is the duty of Christians to marry only in the Lord. And therefore such as profess the true reformed religion should not marry with infidels, papists, or other idolaters: neither should such as are godly be unequally yoked, by marrying with such as are notoriously wicked in their life, or maintain damnable heresies

All sorts of people-

Consent-

"only in the Lord" (2 Cor. 6)-

Papists:

1. Political-

## 2. Theological-

Wicked/ Heretical-

4. Marriage ought not to be within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity forbidden by the Word. Nor can such incestuous marriage ever be made by any law of man or consent of parties, so as those persons may live together as man and wife.

Consanguinity (blood)-

Affinity (by way of marriage)-

Applicable to all (Mark 6:18)-

5. Adultery or fornication committed after a contract, being detected before marriage, giveth just occasion to the innocent party to dissolve that contract. In the case of adultery after marriage, it is lawful for the innocent party to sue out a divorce. and, after the divorce, to marry another, as if the offending party were dead.

Remarriage permissible for innocent party (Mat. 5:31-32)-

6. Although the corruption of man be such as is apt to study arguments unduly to put asunder those whom God hath joined together in marriage: yet, nothing but adultery, or such willful desertion as can no way be remedied by the Church, or civil magistrate, is cause sufficient of dissolving the bond of marriage: wherein, a public and orderly course of proceeding is to be observed; and the persons concerned in it not left to their own wills and discretion in their own case.

Corruption of man will excuse divorce-

Divorce permissible under two conditions:

Adultery-

Desertion (1 Cor. 7:12-15)-

Unequally yoked not in and of itself sufficient cause-

If unbelieving spouse leaves-

Role of the Church-

Application- One Message