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SAMPLE MARRIAGE CONTRACT

FROM THE PORTLAND PORCUPINE, PAUL DEPARRIE

*Many Christians have become dissatisfied with the current legal status of marriage. They rightly see that the state marriage license is a meaningless document in protecting marriage or the interests of the husbands, wives, and children involved.*

Paul, a document cannot protect marriage (a fact proven by the 50% who choose divorce). Only love can do that.

However, it is designed to protect the legal interests of the parties involved. So you will need to explain how that has become "meaningless."

*They would like to see a truly biblical marriage covenant*

Paul, the only biblical marriage I know of in the Bible, that didn't involve polygamy was Adam and Eve, & that was only because ... there weren't any other people around.

*which would preserve the concept of "fault" should a divorce occur*

Paul, that demonstrated an almost child-like understanding of reality. Both sides usually point the finger of fault at the other. Very seldom do you have a clear-cut case of provable fault.

*and would effectively deal with a number of issues that a Christian marriage should address. However, there are certain advantages that attend the state marriage license that are legitimate and desirable.*

*To help remedy this situation, Culture War Associates has hired an attorney to assist us to draft a sample marriage contract with a biblical character.*

Paul, if your contract is truly biblical then it will stipulate that the value of the woman as opposed to that of the man, is from 50-67% ... depending on age.

I'll bet you left that out of your contract, didn't you Paul?

*In doing this, we have used our own perspective relating to doctrinal issues on marriage and divorce.*

Paul, but you ignored the fact that only the Mormons actually followed doctrinal issues on marriage until forced to make polygamy illegal.

*Not all of you will agree with these, but we invite you to use this as an outline in preparing a marriage license suited toward your own understanding of these issues. This sample license is not to be construed as legal advice. Laws in your state may be different than ours, so we suggest, that you use and alter this sample to fit your doctrinal perspectives. Then take it to a local attorney to insure that the language is what you need for what you are trying to accomplish.*

Okay Paul, so let's see this contract you are so proud of.

Sample Marriage Contract

*In the Name of God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, we, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , hereby, before these witnesses, are joined in holy matrimony, as God intended in Genesis 2: 21-25, from this day forward until death.*

*The Authority in and for this marriage shall be Almighty God as revealed in the Holy Bible, Authorized 1611 King James Version. His words shall be final Authority in every decision and/or dispute.*

Paul, a little problem: other than delusional religious nutjobs, rational people can't ever seem to get Him on the horn. Are disputes settled by looking for His image in a bowl of Rice Krispies or for the Virgin Mary's face on a slice of pizza?

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a man of sound mind and character, and of lawful age, attesting to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the preeminence of the Word of God.*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a woman of sound mind and character, and of lawful age, attesting to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the preeminence of the Word of God.*

*Both of the parties shall have the usual and customary duties of marriage including, but not limited to, the following: Mutual sexual congress*

*It is specifically agreed that each party will endeavor to maintain high standards of hygiene and physical fitness so as to remain attractive one to the other.*

Paul, I've seen your picture on your web site. Just a little advice here: if I were you ... I would remove that last requirement.

*Mutual society*

*Mutual rearing of children*

*Mutual support, including, but not limited to: Financial: although the Husband shall be the person who works outside the home primarily so long as he is able. So long as the Husband is the party who is the primary provider of income into the home, the Wife shall be the person primarily responsible for childcare, housekeeping, cooking, and cleaning.*

Paul, have you noticed that modern America, including most Christians, have left your medieval thinking in the dust? Of course you have. That's the purpose of your web site: to restore this ancient, Middle Age theocratic society that you imagine was a better place.

*It is agreed that until such time as the parties have accumulated enough wealth whereby the survivor of the parties could rely on such wealth for all his or her sustenance for a period of no less than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years, life insurance will be acquired and paid for to provide enough money for said term of sustenance.*

Paul, life insurance? Isn't that socialism? Why it sure is. I thought you Ghost Worshippers were dead set against that?

*The following activities or behaviors shall be considered violations of the marriage contract: Adultery:*

*Adultery is defined as any sexual activity or conduct with any person or persons not a party to this agreement.*

Well Paul, you're going to have to dump about half your biblical heroes for that one.

*Abandonment shall be defined as either the filing in state court of any instrument seeking either legal separation or legal dissolution of the marriage, or desertion from the marital home for a period of no less than six months - whether support is paid by the deserting party or not.*

Paul, so filing for divorce is a prohibition? Remember what I said earlier about the Medieval Ages? You are one piece of work, Paul.

*Abortion shall be defined as the deliberate termination of the life of a child after fertilization by any means, or the use of abortifacient birth control chemicals or devices.*

Paul, your invisible ghost murders 50 million children a year through miscarriage. You have just provided Christians the legal right to divorce God. Nice job, Paul.

*Assault is defined to be injurious or potentially injurious unwanted physical contact. A child of this marriage shall include any child of either party who is living with the parties and any adopted child.*

Paul, that isn't very biblical of you. Have you forgotten "spare the rod, spoil the child?"

*Criminal behavior shall be defined as one party’s willful and ongoing activities in violation of law such as would subject that party and/or the household to criminal sanctions and incarceration.*

Paul, your beloved King James version makes working on the Sabbath a capital offense. So first, you have to figure out which day is the Sabbath, and then you have to obey God and not even burp on that day. But I'm sure you have a nifty little excuse all ready to get yourself out of that one, don't you? Of course you do.

*Habitual drunkeness or drug intoxication, whether criminal or not and whether the result of an illness or not is prohibited. Habitual drunkeness or drug intoxication shall be deemed to include a party’s being under the influence of alchohol or drugs to a noticeable or perceptable degree more often than \_\_\_ days per month.*

Paul, I love the open-mindedness you displayed by allowing a certain number of days per month. You should also include that in the adultery section. But just for the man, of course. Wait, I stand corrected. Since your Bible says that a woman is worth half the value of a man, he should be allowed to wander twice as many days per month.

And Paul, you told us that an attorney helped you with this contract. That claim loses some validity when your contract contains 3 misspelled words, just in that one paragraph.

*It is specifically agreed and understood that becoming physically or mentally ill is not prohibited conduct.*

Paul, that was incredibly lame. Physical or mental illness is not conduct. Damn you people are dense.

*The other party’s becoming physically or mentally ill is not, in itself, prohibited by this contract and cannot be the basis for seeking a remedy under this contract.*

Really Paul? A contract can prohibit physical or mental illness? You're not just dense Paul - you're a nut job.

*It is specifically agreed and understood that becoming financially poor is not prohibited conduct.*

Paul, that's not conduct either. So you actually paid a lawyer to help you write this? Boy, did you get taken to the cleaners.

*The first appeal, when one party believes the other party has violated the prohibitions above, shall be in accordance with Matthew 18: 15-18, that is, the offended party shall take the matter to the accused party ... If no resolution results, the offended party shall call for a 1 Corinthians 6: 1-5 panel to judge the matter. The panel shall consist of three bishops or deacons (“elders”) of the Christian church who are in conformity with 1 Timothy 3: 1-13. The standard of proof shall be preponderance of the evidence.*

Paul, this sounds suspiciously similar to Sharia Law. They too live in the Middle Ages.

*If a party is found to be at fault, the panel shall render a decision in writing concerning separation or divorce, concerning financial support, and concerning physical custody of the children. All decisions of a 1 Corinthians 6 panel shall be binding upon the parties for permanent separation or divorce.*

Paul, that sounds really great and all, except for one thing: here in the U.S. we don't have Sharia yet. Our civil courts handle these matters.

Sounds like you may have been happier with Mohammed (S.B.U.H.) than Jesus. Hey Paul ... it's never too late. Show the Muslims this contract and they'll probably make you an Imam.

*The prevailing party shall file a civil action in state court to memorialize and publish the 1 Corinthians 6 panel’s decision. The non-prevailing party specifically agrees to allow the prevailing party to win a default judgment in the civil action in state court or to pay the prevailing party’s attorney fees incurred in the civil action in state court.*

Paul, that's not what Jesus said. He said if you are sued ... give him your cloak also.

*Divorce:*

*Divorce shall be defined as the complete dissolution of this marriage contract and may only be sought by a party claiming and showing a violation of the contractual provisions against adultery, abandonment, or abortion. Initial separation shall follow the procedure above. Financial support shall follow the procedure describes in the separation section above.*

Paul, why doesn't financial support follow the procedure described by Jesus Himself in Matthew 5:40?

*The undersigned parties do hereby agree to the terms of this contract.*

Paul, the only thing that disturbs me more than the fact that anyone would mentally masturbate himself by writing up something as ridiculous as this, is the fact that I would waste an equal amount of time ... reading and writing about it.

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THE SCIENCE SEGMENT

The 500 Phases of Matter

New System Successfully Classifies Symmetry-Protected Phases

Forget solid, liquid, and gas: there are in fact more than 500 phases of matter. Condensed matter physics -- the branch of physics responsible for discovering and describing most of these phases -- has traditionally classified phases by the way their fundamental building blocks -- usually atoms -- are arranged. The key is symmetry.

To understand symmetry, imagine flying through liquid water in an impossibly tiny ship: the atoms would swirl randomly around you, and every direction -- whether up, down, or sideways -- would be the same. The technical term for this is "symmetry" -- and liquids are highly symmetric. Crystal ice, another phase of water, is less symmetric. If you flew through ice in the same way, you would see the straight rows of crystalline structures passing as regularly as the girders of an unfinished skyscraper. Certain angles would give you different views. Certain paths would be blocked, others wide open. Ice has many symmetries -- every "floor" and every "room" would look the same, for instance -- but physicists would say that the high symmetry of liquid water is broken.

Classifying the phases of matter by describing their symmetries and where and how those symmetries break is known as the Landau paradigm. More than simply a way of arranging the phases of matter into a chart, Landau's theory is a powerful tool which both guides scientists in discovering new phases of matter and helps them grapple with the behaviours of the known phases. Physicists were so pleased with Landau's theory that for a long time they believed that all phases of matter could be described by symmetries. That's why it was such an eye-opening experience when they discovered a handful of phases that Landau couldn't describe.

Beginning in the 1980s, condensed matter researchers investigated new quantum systems where numerous ground states existed with the same symmetry. Those new states contain a new kind of order: topological order. Topological order is a quantum mechanical phenomenon: it is not related to the symmetry of the ground state, but instead to the global properties of the ground state's wave function. Therefore, it transcends the Landau paradigm, which is based on classical physics concepts.

Topological order is a more general understanding of quantum phases and the transitions between them. In the new framework, the phases of matter were described not by the patterns of symmetry in the ground state, but by the patterns of a decidedly quantum property -- entanglement. When two particles are entangled, certain measurements performed on one of them immediately affects the other, no matter how far apart the particles are. The patterns of such quantum effects, unlike the patterns of the atomic positions, could not be described by their symmetries.

This more general description of matter was powerful -- but there were still a few phases that didn't fit. Specifically, there were a set of short-range entangled phases that did not break the symmetry, the so-called symmetry-protected topological phases. Examples of symmetry-protected phases include some topological superconductors and topological insulators, which are of widespread immediate interest because they show promise for use in the coming first generation of quantum electronics.

Researchers reveal a new system which can, at last, successfully classify these symmetry-protected phases. Using modern mathematics -- specifically group cohomology theory and group super-cohomology theory -- the researchers have constructed and classified the symmetry-protected phases in any number of dimensions and for any symmetries. Their new classification system will provide insight about these quantum phases of matter, which may in turn increase our ability to design states of matter for use in superconductors or quantum computers.

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FAMOUS QUOTES

MICHAEL DOWD (1958) 54 years old

He is an American evolutionary theologian, bestselling author, and evangelist for Big History and Religious Naturalism.

His evangelizing to over 1,600 audiences starting in 2002 provided material for Thank God for Evolution in 2008. This book is noteworthy for its breadth and depth of endorsements; it includes six Nobel Prize-winning scientists. On April 2, 2009, Dowd at the United Nations addressed the lack of an evolutionary worldview which he maintains has resulted in a global integrity crisis that requires a deep-time view of human nature, values and social systems to provide a solution for going forward. He maintains a Christian perspective and accepts the theory of evolution.

Dowd expanded his outreach program with the founding of EvolutionaryChristianity.com in 2010. Thirty-eight religious leaders from diverse backgrounds joined him. In spite of their dissimilar religious orientations and backgrounds, they hold many perspectives in common; such as valuing Big History (deep time), a global ethos, and realistic expectations grounded in an understanding of scientific (Evidence of common descent), historical (History of the world), and cross-cultural facts (cultural evolution) as "divine communication."

“No one in their right mind

would let a first-century dentist fill their children’s teeth.

Why, then, do we allow first-century theologians

to fill our children’s minds?”