

Church of Christ at Red Hill

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CHINA MISSION NEWSLETTER

MISSIONARY

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Questions:

Please email
Chuck Taylor
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Dear Brethren:

Marriage is practiced around the globe. Traditions and customs regarding marriage vary greatly, as do the ethical and moral standards surrounding marriage. Yet those desiring to please God will seek biblical answers to their questions regarding marriage, divorce, and remarriage. And the questions are many. There is one aspect of the topic, however, that I often find misunderstood here and, likely, most everywhere.

God created the institution of marriage to be observed by all mankind. It was instituted from the beginning, that is, from the Garden of Eden, with Adam and Eve being the first to be joined in marriage by God. Since God created the institution, God has the divine right to define its meaning, regulate its observance, and set parameters within which it must remain in order to be kept holy and undefiled. Marriage is universally practiced by virtually all cultures, and though they are diverse in their standards of righteousness, all mankind is amenable to God's law, including God's law regarding marriage unions.

Marriage was created by God, not civil government. It is God who joins a man and a woman in holy matrimony, not civil government. The state's only choice is to either recognize or not recognize the fact of a marriage union joined by God. The prerogative of the state extends only so far as the right to decide which set of laws will be applicable to the couple already joined by God. The married couple seeking to record their marriage in the courthouse is in actuality petitioning the state to recognize and record their marriage so as to place them under those laws uniquely applicable to married couples. Whether the state accepts or denies their petition has no bearing as to whether the couple is married in the sight of God.

The state can issue all the documents it wants: marriage certificates, divorce certificates, remarriage certificates—all of which have no bearing on whether the person is married or divorced in God's view, and whether or not the person has the biblical right of remarriage. These government documents only declare which set of Caesar's laws will apply to you: as one married, or as one unmarried. It is God's law that determines your right to marry, divorce, or remarry. There may be other reasons to petition Caesar for the status provided by his documents, but not for the purpose of determining marital rights before God. For instance, you may have put away your spouse for scriptural reasons and have the right under God to remarry, however, without Caesar's civil divorce certificate, you will be charged with bigamy when you petition Caesar to recognize your second marriage, even though it is biblically justified. Caesar's law cannot abrogate God's law. Caesar's documents in contradiction with God's law can only confer or deny rights under Caesar's law, but can neither confer nor deny rights under God's law. I suppose you could forgo petitioning the government for any marital status document and instead invoke common law. Common law constitutes the basis of the English legal system and of all U.S. legal systems except Louisiana's. Alas, you will still likely run afoul of Caesar's laws or fall into Satan's temptations.

Underscoring the point that it is God who joins a man and a woman in holy matrimony, not civil government, consider this: If the state outlawed the marriage of Christians, would their only choice be either celibacy or fornication? Historically, certain classes of people have been denied legal recognition of biblical marriage throughout world history. Regrettably, history documents that it has happened in our own nation's past as well.

Your servant in Christ,

Eugene F. Brzozowski

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(Those making spreading the Gospel in Taiwan possible)

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FYI: Be assured that 100% of your contributions go to the Brzozowski Mission activity. Red Hill is funding all costs of the administration and mailing fees associated with the Mission.

REMEMBER----If you have extra funds available, Eugene and Natasha could certainly use them.

Thank you for your continued support in spreading God's word to a lost world and helping Eugene and family spread the gospel effectively this year. Your support and prayers allow Eugene to continue his efforts to spread God's word in Taiwan. He always expresses his appreciation for you.

To help with our bookkeeping, **please be sure to mark your donations for Eugene or Natasha or both.** If they are not marked, then they will be logged as support for Eugene.

If you have a question, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Email: redhillchurch@benlomand.net

Phone: 931-728-7086

I would appreciate your input.

Chuck Taylor

(for the Red Hill elders)