

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Sec 3. “It is lawful for all sorts of people to marry, who are able with judgment to give their consent.”

A. Modern Muslims & those of old have taken women by conquest for marriage.

[Do U think such ladies were able to give consent?]

1. Women in such a situation would likely be beaten if they did not participate in the marriage.

2. Sec 3 speaks of consent that is of one’s own desire rather than by duress.

a. Duress or coercion is the use of threats, violence, constraints, manipulation, or other action brought to bear on someone to do something against their will or better judgment.

b. Marriage is a life-long covenant between a man & woman that intended for a lifetime. The decision to marry should be willingly entered by both man & woman.

B. Sec 3 *could be* interpreted as being against family practices of arranged marriages if done in a tyrannical fashion by parents; however, there has been some wholesome modernization to the ancient practice.

1. “While we traditionally think of an arranged marriage to mean showing up at the altar to meet your spouse for the first time, the modern take has more negotiation. While the family influence is still key—and indeed, it is often the family choosing the potential partner—some people are given a power of veto. Today’s arranged marriages place much more emphasis on free choice,”¹

2. This same article goes on to say, “In the U.S., while the divorce rate hovers around 40 or 50 percent, the divorce rate for arranged marriages is 4 percent. In India, where some estimate that 90 percent of marriages are arranged, the divorce rate is only 1 percent.”

3. Key to a lasting marriage is taking advantage of the wisdom of age [parents & church elders] & honoring the 5th commandment.

Sec 3 “... 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.”

A. Here is where **2 Cor 6:14-18** comes in. Turn there.

B. Being forbidden to marry a papist or is not to say that all Roman Catholics are unbelievers on par with infidels; however, there are components of the Roman mass that are outright idolatry. That is why the confession lists them as “idolaters.”

1. If a young, Reformed person meets a Roman Catholic who is transitioning out of the Roman church, that could work-out for the future; however, this is a very dangerous situation.

2. Someone who expressing a willingness to transition out may transition back after vows & rings exchanged.

3. Parents should not entertain a relationship for a son or daughter unless the interested young person has joined & faithfully worships at a solid, Protestant, Trinitarian church and demonstrates fruit of the Holy Spirit.

¹ <https://www.brides.com/story/modern-arranged-marriages#:~:text=In%20the%20U.S.%2C%20while%20the,married%20marriages%20is%204%20percent.>

C. If a young member of a Reformed church decides to marry such a person that is forbidden according to the WCF, it is a right & just use of church discipline to keep that from happening. Young people, your membership vows call for that action to be taken.

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

A. A person of close consanguinity means that they are of a close blood or genetic relationship.

B. **Lev 18:6-18** forbids relations between those who are our close relatives by means of blood or genetic relationship or by means of marriage. → **Lev 18:6-18**.

1. Contrary to common opinion, marriage even to a 1st cousin is not forbidden. Many close relations are forbidden yet not that.

a. Some states forbid such marriages & some do not.

b. It is not wise to have close genetic ties and to intermarry. "Children of first-cousin marriages have an increased risk of autosomal recessive genetic disorders, and this risk is higher in populations that are already highly ethnically similar."²

2. **1 Cor 5:1** condemned a young man's relationship with his father's wife as incest as well as fornication.

a. Why wasn't the term adultery used? Is it likely because his father & his wife in question were no longer married.

b. From the start, the woman involved was likely a 2nd or 3rd wife and not the 1st wife—the mother of the incestuous young man.

C. At the dawn of mankind even after the fall, Adam & Eve's children did intermarry; however, Scripture later commanded that this no longer be done.

² Hamamy, Hanan (July 2012). "Consanguineous marriages". *Journal of Community Genetics*. **3** (3): 185–192. doi:10.1007/s12687-011-0072-y. ISSN 1868-310X. PMC 3419292. PMID 22109912.