

CONSENT & COUNSEL FOR MARRIAGE

(Joey Faust, 2-9-22)
Marriage Series



C O N S E N T

**TEXT: Proverbs 20:18 Every
purpose is established by
counsel: and with good advice
make war.**

Genesis 24:28 And the damsel ran, and told them of her **mother's house** these things.

Genesis 24:45 And before I had done speaking in mine heart, behold, Rebekah came forth with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down unto the well, and drew water: and I said unto her, Let me drink, I pray thee.

46 And **she made haste**, and let down her pitcher from her shoulder, and said, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: so I drank, and she made the camels drink also.

8 And I bowed down my head, and worshipped the LORD...

49 And now if ye will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me: and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left.

Genesis 24:50 Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceedeth from the LORD: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good.

51 Behold, **Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go**, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken.

Genesis 24:54 And they did eat and drink, he and the men that were with him, and tarried all night; and they rose up in the morning, and he said, Send me away unto my master.

55 And her brother and her mother said, Let the damsel abide with us a few days, at the least ten; after that she shall go.

56 And he said unto them, Hinder me not, seeing the LORD hath prospered my way; send me away that I may go to my master.

57 And they said, We will call the damsel, and enquire at her mouth.

58 And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, **Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go.**

Genesis 34:12 Ask me never so much dowry and gift, and I will give according as ye shall say unto me: but give me the damsel to wife.

1 Samuel 18:25 And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth **not any dowry**, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies...

**Judges 1:12 And Caleb said,
He that smiteth
Kirjathsepher, and taketh it,
to him will I give Achsah my
daughter to wife.**

Genesis 24:51 Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken.

52 And it came to pass, that, when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshipped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth.

53 And the servant brought forth jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment, and gave them to Rebekah: he gave also to her brother and to her mother precious things.

"...*wilt thou go with this man?* that is, directly; the question was not about her marriage of Isaac, that was agreed upon, and **she had doubtless given her consent, and which she tacitly did by accepting of the presents...**"

(John Gill)

Genesis 24:5 And the servant said unto him,
Peradventure **the woman will not be willing**
to follow me unto this land: must I needs
bring thy son again unto the land from
whence thou camest?

8 And **if the woman will not be willing** to
follow thee, then thou shalt be clear from this
my oath: only bring not my son thither again.

**Song of Solomon 8:7 Many
waters cannot quench love,
neither can the floods drown
it...**

**1 Samuel 18:20 And Michal
Saul's daughter loved David: and
they told Saul, and the thing
pleased him.**

Numbers 36:6 This is the thing which the Lord doth command concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, saying, **Let them marry to whom they think best; only to the family of the tribe of their father shall they marry.**

**"Talmudic law held that the consent of the persons betrothed was essential to the validity of the betrothal."
*(Biblical Antiquities, 1888)***

"In all cases, the Talmud specifies that a woman can be acquired only with her consent, and not without it (Kiddushin 2a-b)."
(Jewish Virtual Library)

Maimonides, d. 1205; was an influential, medieval Jewish scholar of the Middle Ages:

"In Egypt, Maimonides wrote that although a father had the authority...to betroth his daughter without her consent...when she was a minor...that 'it was not appropriate to do so'...And he further asserted that pious people did not do so."

(Howard Tzvi Adelman, *Women and Jewish Marriage Negotiations in Early Modern Italy*, 2017)

"Where they proceed in Christian fashion there will be knowledge and consent on both sides: the father will not bestow his child without the child's knowledge and consent (as is written in Genesis 24:57-58, where Rebekah was asked beforehand and freely consented to become the wife of Isaac); the child in turn will not bestow himself without the father's knowledge and consent."

(Luther)

"Previously I wrote that obedience to parents is so important that a child should not become engaged or marry without their knowledge and consent...But now parents are going too far in this direction. They are beginning arbitrarily to hinder and prevent their children from getting married and...to compel them to marry someone they do not love...If then a father forces his child into a marriage without love, he oversteps and exceeds his authority. He ceases to be a father and becomes a tyrant who uses his authority not for building up...He is taking authority into his own hands without God, indeed, against God." (Luther, 1524)

"Let us bear in mind, therefore, that this limitation is the proper rule: that children allow themselves to be governed by their parents, and that they, on the other hand, do not drag their children by force to what is against their inclination..."

(Calvin, 1546)

"...if power [to stay single] be wanting [lacking] on the part of the daughter, the father acts an exceedingly bad part if he endeavors to keep her back from marriage, and would be no longer a father to her, but a cruel tyrant."

(Calvin)

"...in disposing of children in marriage, the authority of parents is of first-rate importance, provided they do not tyrannically abuse it..."

(Calvin)

"Parents ought not to force their children to marry without their free consent, nor deny their own consent without just cause."

(The Directory for the Public Worship of God; Agreed upon by the Assembly of Divines at Westminster, 1645)

"To marry or not, and to this or that person, is matter of liberty. Parents cannot in this case determine their children; Bethuel (Gen, 24:58) asketh Rebekah if she would go with Abraham's servant before he would send her."

(Matthew Poole, d. 1679)

"...it is the duty of children to receive their [parent's] advice, and not to depart from it...But that parents have an absolute power...I see no reason to conclude."

(Matthew Poole, Annotations on Jeremiah 35:19)

"If parents should indeed counsel a child to match with one that is impious or Popish, I think the case is plain, and many of the learned are of opinion that here the child may have a negative voice, and is not obliged to be ruled by the parent...for that is not to marry in the Lord..."

(Thomas Watson, d. 1686)

"...the question here is not whether the parental authority extends so far that it can compel unwilling children to marriage and to make matches for them without their consent; for this is denied on both sides...[And it] does not concern insane and maniacal parents..."

(Francis Turretin, 1623-1687)

"...unless they have reached the legal age, namely twenty years for a man, and eighteen for a woman..."

(The Register of the Company of Pastors of Geneva in the time of Calvin)

"No father shall compel his children to enter into a marriage which he favours without their good will and consent..."
(The Register of the Company of Pastors of Geneva in the time of Calvin)

"...though it is more fitting that they should always let themselves be governed by the advice of their fathers."
(The Register of the Company of Pastors of Geneva in the time of Calvin)

"The children, which presume to marry without the counsel of their parents, do greatly offend God, and are fallen away from the obedience they owe their parents..."

(Thomas Becon, 1511-1567, English preacher and Protestant reformer; *The Catechism of Thomas Becon*)

"Ought not the consent of the children also to be considered...no less than the authority of the parents?...God forbid else!...[Rebecca] answered, 'I will go,' etc...though the authority of the children be great over their children, yet in the matter of marriage the consent of the children may not be neglected. For parents must so use their authority, that they do not abuse it. They abuse it, when it turneth unto hindrance...and destruction of their children...that the authority of the parents and the consent of the children may go together..But some parents greatly abuse their authority, while they sell their children...These be wicked parents, and marriages thus made for the most part have never good success, as experience daily teacheth..."

(Thomas Becon, d. 1567, English preacher and Protestant reformer; *The Catechism of Thomas Becon*)

"... 'tis consent that makes the Marriage...Rebekah was ask'd the question, Wilt thou go with this man?..She said *I will go*; there's her consent...and that's the condition upon which Christ becomes ours; *whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely...*"

(Richard Alleine, an English Puritan; *Godly Fear*, 1674)

"That faith of marriage is made by covenant and promise, or by consent...For we see the Scripture maketh no difference between the covenant of marriage and consent...*Wilt thou go with this man?* and she said, *I will go*...neither have the parents power to bestow their children in marriage without their consent, Gen. xxiv. 57. And this is agreeable to the law of nature, according to the constitution of the heathen Roman emperors...neither must the parents exercise a tyrannical power over their children in forbidding them marriage, but must always have respect unto their need."
(Andrew Willet, d. 1621, English clergyman, anti-Catholic; *A General View of the Papacy*)

**"Let them teach their children
to ask marriages of their
fathers and mothers."**

(William Tyndale, d. 1536)

"If their friends [parents] will not marry them, then are they not to blame if they marry themselves: let not the fathers and mothers always take the uttermost of their authority of their children, but bear their weakness, as Christ doth ours." (William Tyndale)

**Ecclesiastes 5:2 Be not rash
with thy mouth, and let not
thine heart be hasty to
utter any thing before
God...**