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THE BOOK

OF

Public Prayers and Services

FOR THE USE OF

THE PEOPLE CALLED METHODISTS.



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¶ *Then the Minister, speaking to the newly baptized, shall say,*

Dear brother, thou hast now been baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus : I exhort thee to bear in mind that it is thy part and duty to walk answerably to thy high and holy calling, as becometh the child of light, blameless and harmless, without rebuke, in the midst of an ungodly world ; remembering always that baptism representeth unto us our profession ; which is to follow the example of our Saviour Christ, and to be made like unto him ; that as he died, and rose again for us ; so should we, who are baptized, die to sin, and rise again unto righteousness ; continually mortifying all our evil and corrupt affections, and daily proceeding in all virtue and godliness of living.

¶ *The Minister may conclude the Service with exhortation and extemporary prayer.*

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. *Amen.*

THE FORM
OF

Solemnization of Matrimony.

(For Directions relative to the legal Solemnization of Marriages in Wesleyan Chapels in England and Wales, see Appendix.)

¶ *At the day and time appointed for solemnization of Matrimony, the persons to be married standing together, the Man on the right hand and the Woman on the left, the Minister shall say,*

DEARLY beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the face of this congregation, to join together this Man and this Woman in holy Matrimony ; which is an honourable estate, instituted of God in the time of Man's innocency, signifying unto us the mystical union that is between Christ and his Church ; which holy estate Christ sanctioned and adorned with his presence, and first miracle that he wrought in Cana of Galilee ; and is commended of St. Paul to be honourable among all men, and therefore is not by any to be enterprised, or taken in hand, unadvisedly, lightly, or wantonly ; but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, and in the fear of God ; duly considering the causes for which Matrimony was ordained.

It was ordained that children might be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord, and to the praise of his holy Name.

It was also ordained for the mutual society, help, and comfort, that the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.

Into this holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined. Therefore, if any man can show any just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter for ever hold his peace.

¶ *And, speaking unto the Persons that are to be married, he shall say,*

I REQUIRE and charge you both, (as you will answer at the dreadful day of judgment, when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed,) that if either of you know any impediment why you may not be lawfully joined together in Matrimony, you do now confess it. For be ye well assured, that so many as are joined together otherwise than God's word doth allow are not joined together by God; neither is their Matrimony lawful.

¶ *The Man shall then say, as required by law, in the presence of the Registrar and two Witnesses,*

I DO solemnly declare, that I know not of any lawful impediment, why I, A. B.,* may not be joined in Matrimony to C. D.†

* The Man. † The Woman.

¶ *In like manner the Woman shall say, in the presence of the same Persons,*

I DO solemnly declare, that I know not of any lawful impediment, why I, C. D.,* may not be joined in Matrimony to A. B.†

* The Woman. † The Man.

N.B.—The names of the persons to be married must be repeated as they stand upon the License or Certificate.

¶ *If no impediment be alleged, then shall the Minister say unto the Man,*

A. B. **W**ILT thou have this Woman to thy wedded Wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honour and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live?

¶ *The Man shall answer,*

I WILL.

¶ *Then shall the Minister say unto the Woman,*

C. D. **W**ILT thou have this Man to thy wedded Husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou obey him, serve him, love, honour, and keep him, in sickness and

in health; and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live?

¶ *The Woman shall answer,*

I WILL.

¶ *Then shall the Minister say,*

WHO giveth this Woman to be married to this Man?

¶ *Then the Minister shall cause the Man with his right hand to take the Woman by her right hand, and to say after him, as required by law,*

I CALL upon these persons here present to witness, that I, A. B.,* do take thee, C. D.,† to be my lawful wedded Wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my troth.

* The Man. † The Woman.

¶ *Then shall they loose their hands; and the Woman, with her right hand taking the Man by his right hand, shall likewise say after the Minister,*

I CALL upon these persons here present to witness, that I, C. D.,* do take thee, A. B.,† to be my lawful wedded Husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, cherish, and to obey, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I give thee my troth.

* The Woman. † The Man.

¶ *Then shall they again loose their hands; and the Man shall give unto the Woman a Ring, laying the same upon the book. And the Minister, taking the Ring, shall deliver it unto the Man, to put it upon the fourth finger of the Woman's left hand. And the Man, holding the Ring there, and taught by the Minister, shall say,*

WITH this Ring, a token and pledge of the Vow and Covenant now made betwixt me and thee, I thee wed, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

¶ *Then the Man leaving the Ring upon the fourth finger of the Woman's left hand, they shall both kneel down; and the Minister shall say,*

Let us pray.

O ETERNAL God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life; Send thy blessing upon these thy servants, this Man and this Woman, whom we bless in thy Name; that, as Zacharias and Elisabeth lived faithfully together, so these persons may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made, (whereof this Ring given and received is a token and pledge,) and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Minister join their right hands together, and say,*

Those whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.

¶ *Then shall the Minister speak unto the People:*

FORASMUCH as *A. B.* and *C. D.* have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have pledged their troth either to other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving of a Ring, and by joining of hands; I pronounce that they be Man and Wife together, In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

¶ *And the Minister shall add this blessing:*

GOD the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favour look upon you; and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that ye may so live together in this life that in the world to come ye may have life everlasting. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall be read one or both of the following Psalms.*

Beati omnes. PSALM cxxviii.

BLESSED is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways.

For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.

Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of

thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.

Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord.

The Lord shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.

Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Deus misereatur. PSALM lxxvii.

GOD be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us. *Selah.*

That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.

Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. *Selah.*

Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

¶ *Then, all present kneeling, the Minister shall say,*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

OUR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

O Lord, save thy servant and thy handmaid;
And let them put their trust in thee.

O Lord, send them help from thy holy place;
And evermore defend them.

Be unto them a tower of strength,
From the face of their enemy.

O Lord, hear our prayer;
And let our cry come unto thee.

O GOD of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob, bless these thy servants, and sow the seed of eternal life in their hearts, that whatsoever in thy holy Word they shall profitably learn, they may in deed fulfil the same. Look, O Lord, mercifully upon them from heaven, and bless them. And as thou didst send thy blessing upon Abraham and Sarah, to their great comfort; so vouchsafe to send thy blessing upon these thy servants; that they, obeying thy will, and always being in safety under thy protection, may abide in thy love unto their lives' end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O GOD, who by thy mighty power hast made all things of nothing; who also (after other things set in order) didst appoint that out of man (created after thine own image and similitude) woman should take her beginning; and, knitting them together, didst teach that it should never be lawful to put asunder those whom thou by Matrimony hadst made one; and who also hast consecrated the state of Matrimony to such an excellent mystery, that in it is signified and represented the spiritual marriage and unity between Christ and his

Church; Look mercifully upon these thy servants, that both this man may love his wife, according to thy Word; (as Christ did love his spouse the Church, who gave himself for it, loving and cherishing it, even as his own flesh;) and also that this woman may be loving and amiable, faithful and obedient to her husband; and in all quietness, sobriety, and peace, be a follower of holy and godly matrons. O Lord, bless them both, and grant them to inherit thy everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall the Minister say,*

ALmighty God, who at the beginning did create our first parents, Adam and Eve, and did sanctify and join them together in marriage; Pour upon you the riches of his grace, sanctify, and bless you, that you may please him both in body and soul, and live together in holy love unto your lives' end. *Amen.*

¶ *After which the Minister shall read as followeth:*

ALL ye that are married, or that intend to take the holy estate of Matrimony upon you, hear what the Holy Scripture doth say, as touching the duty of husbands towards their wives, and wives towards their husbands.

Saint Paul, in his Epistle to the Ephesians, the fifth chapter, doth give this commandment to all married men: Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that he might present it to himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the Church: for we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one

flesh. This is a great mystery : but I speak concerning Christ and the Church. Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself.—*Ephes.* v. 25—33.

Likewise the same Saint Paul, writing to the Colossians, speaketh thus to all men that are married : Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.—*Col.* iii. 19.

Hear also what Saint Peter, an Apostle of Christ, who was himself a married man, saith unto them that are married : Ye husbands, dwell with your wives according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life ; that your prayers be not hindered.—*1 Peter* iii. 7.

Hitherto ye have heard the duty of the husband toward the wife. Now likewise, ye wives, hear and learn your duties toward your husbands, even as they are plainly set forth in holy Scripture.

Saint Paul, in the aforementioned Epistle to the Ephesians, teacheth you thus : Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church : and he is the Saviour of the body. Therefore as the Church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. And again he saith : Let the wife see that she reverence her husband.—*Ephes.* v. 22—24, 33.

And in his Epistle to the Colossians, Saint Paul giveth you this short lesson : Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.—*Col.* iii. 18.

Saint Peter also doth instruct you, thus saying : Ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands ; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives ; while they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel ; but let it be the hidden man of the heart,

in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands : even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord : whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.—*1 Peter* iii. 1—6.

THE grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. *Amen.*—*2 Cor.* xiii. 14.