

One of the greatest contributing factors to the rampant breakup of marriages in this country is “no-fault” divorce. Now there’s a misnomer if there ever was one. *Somebody’s* at fault when covenants are dissolved, families are ripped apart and children are traumatized! But what is meant by “no-fault” is that one party can secure a divorce for any reason regardless of the feelings or wishes of the other party in the marriage.

This means that a hard-working, happily married man can be abandoned by his wife, deprived of his children (except for appointed visitation hours), billed to support both the children which have been wrenched from him and the wife who has left him for a boyfriend – and he *has no legal recourse whatsoever*. Is it any wonder that crazed husbands injure or kill their wives under such circumstances? Why do our laws allow such treachery? Because we continue to bow down to the god of self-will.

“In states with unilateral, no-fault divorce, in 100% of the cases, the plaintiffs win and in 100% of the cases, defendants lose ... In Michigan it takes two minutes or less for a divorce to take place. Testimony is rhetorical, with one saying there is no reasonable likelihood for resolution. The defendant is not even allowed to testify. Nowhere else in the law is the deck so stacked (on) one side where one is not given his or her day in court. Marriage used to be a covenant, a step above a contract. Now it is a non-contract binding on neither party” (Randall Hekman, *Birmingham News*, 6/9/96).

Of course, this is one of those moral issues wherein our society has burnt its bridges. Changing the law might relieve the situation somewhat, but the root of the problem lies in personal character and integrity.

This begins with realizing that marriage is a relationship that finds its origin and sanction in God (Gen 2:24; Mt 19:4-6). The permanence of marriage stems from God’s law; its obligations and responsibilities are stipulated by Him for the benefit of both husband and wife.

Marriage is, by nature, a giving, selfless arrangement. One does not invest to his or her neglect, for each partner supplies the needs of the other. But when decisions are made based on what makes me happy with no consideration of how others will be affected, then great hurt will follow.

We must enter marriage with the determination to make it last a lifetime. We have no right to do anything less.