

Grace Fellowship Church

Marriage Divorce and Remarriage

April 18, 2004

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I. Marriage

We understand from the Scriptures that marriage is an institution established by the God of the Bible. It is an exclusive and permanent union that is not to be broken, except through the death of a spouse. It is a sacred union that brings a man and a woman together in one flesh ([Genesis 2:24-25](#)). God has forbidden adultery and hates divorce ([Exodus 20:14](#); [Deuteronomy 5:18](#); [Mark 10:11-12](#); [Malachi 2:16](#)). Therefore, it is the will of God for those who marry to remain married until death separates them.

Because marriage is a sacred union and because the Bible contains much instruction regarding the marriage relationship, we believe the following to be appropriate prerequisites for performing weddings at Grace Fellowship Church:

1. Both the man and the woman must give acceptable evidence of having trusted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
2. Both the man and the woman must receive pre-marital instruction under the guidance of the pastoral staff.
3. In the case of previous marriage, there must be sufficient evidence that the divorce obtained allows for remarriage in accordance with the biblical principles set forth in the section below.

II. Divorce and Remarriage

It is also our understanding of Scripture that because of sin and its consequences, the Bible does allow for divorce and possible remarriage. Therefore, the pastoral staff of Grace Fellowship Church may perform remarriages, but only in the case of divorce that has resulted from the following circumstances:

1. One partner is guilty of sexual immorality. In this case, the other partner may obtain a divorce and be remarried without being guilty of adultery ([Matthew 5:32](#); [19:9](#)).
2. A partner who is an unbeliever desires no longer to maintain the marriage relationship and departs. In this case the partner who is a believer may obtain a divorce and is allowed to remarry ([1 Corinthians 7:12-15](#)).

It is our firm belief that in the circumstances given above, divorce is not a necessary step, but rather, every effort will be made to bring about forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration with the expectation that every marriage has the potential to be salvaged by the Lord's power and grace.

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III. Christian Attitude

Because of our high regard for marriage¹, and knowing that a strong biblical foundation is necessary for a marriage to bring glory to God, and to exemplify the relationship of Christ and His church, we will provide Christian education designed to focus on biblical principles relating to the marriage relationship. Our intent is to do this through Sunday school instruction, the pulpit ministry, hosting special seminars, utilizing video tapes, and other materials designed for children, teenagers, singles, and couples of all ages.

We also desire to promote a compassionate attitude towards those who have experienced the trauma of divorce by understanding their hurts and ministering directly to their specific needs.

¹ <http://gfc.home.sprynet.com/docs/AnAffirmationOfMarriage.pdf>