

Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage

Position of Dayton Christian School

Goal: To support God's plan for the family and the permanency of the marriage relationship.

1. Principles of Marriage:

- A. Marriage was instituted by God (Gen 2:18, 24 and Matt. 19:6).
- B. Marriage is a monogamous relationship – God gave Adam just one wife (Gen. 2:22).
- C. Marriage is to be a heterosexual relationship (Gen.1:27, 28; 2:22).
- D. Marriage involves the leaving of one's own parents in order to establish a new family as a married couple (Gen. 2:24).
- E. Marriage is intended by God to be a relationship which binds a couple until death (Mark 10:9; I Cor. 7:39; Romans 7:2-3).
- F. Marriage involves role relationships (Eph. 5:22 28, I Cor. 11:3).
- G. Marriage is a picture of His work of redemption for mankind (Rom. 7:1 6, Eph. 5:22 27).
- H. Marriage involves a vow before man and God (Ecc. 5: 4 6).

2. Principles Regarding Separation/Divorce/Remarriage:

- A. Separation:
 - 1. Separation of any kind shall always be with the view to reconciliation and the restoration of the marriage relationship (I Cor. 7:11, Rom. 2:18, Eph. 4:31 32).
 - 2. Separation may be necessary to insure the safety or wellbeing of a spouse and/or children.
 - 3. Separation may occur as a result of an unbelieving spouse who chooses to leave a believing spouse (I Cor. 7:15).
- B. Divorce:
 - 1. God hates divorce (Mal. 2:13 16).
 - 2. Jesus confirms God's plan for marriage by repeating the statement of Gen. 2:24, "So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." (Matt. 19:6).
 - 3. Jesus teaches against divorce (Matt. 19:6, Mark 10:9); however, Jesus permitted divorce in the event of sexual immorality (Matt. 19:9).
 - 4. Paul also teaches against divorce (I Cor. 7:10 13); however, Paul also permitted divorce in the event an unbelieving partner abandons a believing spouse.(I Cor. 7:15-16)
- C. Remarriage:
 - 1. God's original pattern for marriage requires that one cleave (glued) to his/her spouse becoming one flesh (Gen. 2:24).
 - 2. It is God's desire that the death of one spouse is the only thing that dissolves the permanent (one flesh) relationship (Romans 7:3; I Cor. 7:39; Matt. 19:6). However, when divorce occurs because of (i) sexual immorality by a person's spouse as described by Jesus (Matt. 19:6) or (ii) abandonment of a believing spouse by a non-believing spouse as described by Paul (I Cor. 7:15), then the permanent relationship is

- dissolved, and the non-offending spouse is permitted to remarry. Jesus teaches that if a man divorces (other than for his spouse's sexual immorality (Matt. 19:9)) and remarries he commits adultery (Mark 10:11).
3. Paul teaches that unless the believing spouse has been abandoned by an unbelieving spouse (I Cor. 7:15), the believer that is divorced or separated has only two options: (i) remain permanently unmarried until the death of the spouse, or (ii) reconciliation with the spouse (I Cor. 7:10,11).

3. Other Principles and Biblical commands relating to Divorce:

- A. God commands the husband love his wife unconditionally, as Christ loves the church, in spite of her impurities or failures (Eph. 5:25-26).
- B. God commands the wife to submit to her husband as to the Lord (Eph. 5:22).
- C. A divorce between two believers (except in the event of sexual immorality) violates the command of I Cor. 6:1-8, which forbids believers to go to law against one another before unbelievers.
- D. Ecc. 5:4-6 underlines the seriousness of breaking a vow before God.
- E. Forgiveness up to "70 times 7" in the same day for the same offence is required of all believers (Matt. 18:22).
- F. Any form of vengeance is forbidden in Scripture (Rom. 12:19, Heb. 10:30).
- G. Divorce could negate God's call to suffer for righteousness sake (I Peter 2:20-21, I Peter 4:12-14).
- H. One must recognize that no conflict is too great for God to reconcile (Mark 9:23, Matt. 19:26, Mark 10:27).

4. In light of the previous stated principles and in light of the principle of a higher calling (James 3:1), the following are the appointment, hiring and retention policies in reference to a DCS Board Member, Administrator, Faculty and Head Coaches (all as designated by the Board) (hereinafter referred to as a member of the "Board Designated Group ("BDG")):

- A. Separation:
 1. If separation occurs while serving as a member of the BDG, and there is a demonstrated desire for restoration, the person can remain in that position.
 2. If the person is not committed to restoration, then the person would be asked to resign.
 3. Candidates for a position as a member of the BDG who are separated will require additional discussion.
- B. Divorce:
 1. If initiated by a member of the BDG, then he/she should be dismissed, unless his/her spouse has engaged in sexual immorality or is an unbeliever who has abandoned the marriage.

2. If initiated by the spouse, then evaluation should be undertaken to assess and give counsel to the member of the BDG, relative to his/her part in the conflict. If the member of the BDG is not seeking to restore the marriage relationship, etc., he/she shall be dismissed.
3. New candidates seeking to be a member of the BDG who are divorced usually will not be considered, unless the divorce was for reasons of sexual immorality by his/her former spouse or abandonment by a non-believing spouse.

C. Remarriage

1. Remarriage, with a different spouse, where the former spouse is still living, will disqualify an individual from the position of a member of the BDG, unless the divorce from his/her former spouse was based on the former spouse's sexual immorality, or his/her former spouse was an unbeliever who abandoned the marital relationship.
2. If a member of the BDG marries or is married to a divorced person while the former spouse of such person is still living, the member of the BDG will be dismissed, unless the divorce was for reason of sexual immorality by the person's former spouse or that person's former spouse was an unbeliever who abandoned the marital relationship.
3. If a new candidate seeking a position as a member of the BDG, is married to a divorced person while that person's former spouse is still living, the new candidate will not be considered, unless the divorce was for reason of sexual immorality or abandonment by a non-believing spouse.

5. General Statement:

- A. Sin is sin and all sin can be forgiven (Jer. 1:34). Certain sins though have consequences that are greater than others (I Cor. 6:18).
- B. Divorced and remarried people need to commit to be rebuilders, allowing God to use their experiences in a positive way to help others from making similar mistakes.

6. Any question about the application of these policies will be determined by the DCS Board of Trustees.

Rev. 7/16