

WCC's Position on Divorce and Remarriage

The Wilmington Church of Christ considers the Bible to be the inspired Word of God and therefore our single guide in all matters of doctrine, including marriage and divorce.

We believe:

- I. Christian marriage is not a human-made custom but a divine institution established by God between a man and woman only (Genesis 2: 24; Matthew 19: 5-6).
- II. It is God's will for this union to remain a permanent, life-long, commitment (Matthew 5:32; 19:9; Luke 16:18; Malachi 2: 16).
- III. Permanence is God's ideal; therefore we believe divorce should be viewed as a last resort. However, God permits divorce in two circumstances.
 - a. If one's spouse commits an act of "marital unfaithfulness" (adultery and/or other forms of sexual immorality: see Matthew 5:32 & Matthew 19:9).
 - b. If a believing spouse is abandoned by an unbeliever (Matthew 19: 1-10; 1 Corinthians 7).

In both of the above cases the "believing spouse" or the "maritally faithful spouse" is free to seek a divorce and /or remarry without committing sin.

IV. Many people have violated God's teaching on marriage and divorce in the past. While our desire is to uphold God's truth, it is not our intent to cause further pain or condemnation to anyone. The message of the gospel is that we can receive God's forgiveness if we will confess our sin and turn to him.

V. A divorced and/or remarried believer may become a member of our congregation.