

Cohabitation or “Living Together”

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 sex and marriage. The Bible says that the only proper place for sexual expression is within the bonds of marriage (Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 22:13-30; Hebrews 13:4). Marriage is defined as being between a man and a woman who have solemnly committed to a lifelong relationship together before God and man (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6). Any sexual relationship outside of the marital bond – whether premarital, extramarital or homosexual – is considered a sin. Therefore, the Wilmington Church of Christ does not condone a church member living with someone to whom he or she is not married when such a relationship could result in the temptation to sin sexually or could give the appearance to others that a sexual relationship exists.

Even when the people involved in the cohabitation intend for the relationship to be platonic, we would strongly advise against an unmarried, unrelated adult man and woman living together. It is the position of the Wilmington Church of Christ that cohabitation, no matter how pure the intentions may be, invites too much temptation (1 Corinthians 6:18) and does not properly avoid the “appearance of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:22-23 KJV).