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POLICY ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

1. God's clear plan and intent is that marriage be a permanent relationship severed only by death. (*Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6, 1 Corinthians 7:10-11*)
2. One Biblical ground for divorce is sexual immorality. (*Matthew 5:32, 19:9*)
3. Anyone who divorces his partner for any other reason and marries another commits adultery. (*Matthew 5:32, 19:9, Mark 10:11-12*)
4. Although divorce is permitted, IT IS NOT COMMANDED. The biblical emphasis is on the marriage and nothing in the Bible encourages divorce.
5. The party not guilty in the case of a divorce based on sexual immorality is free to remarry. (*Matthew 19:9*)
6. Sins committed before a person becomes a Christian should not prevent him/her from membership and fellowship within the church. (*1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 7:17-24*)
7. The qualification for ELDER (Five Fold Ministries) or DEACON in 1 Timothy 3:2,12, "husband of one wife" requires that he/she must be a man or women of unquestionable morality. He/she must set a high standard in the marital relationship in his/her faithfulness to one marriage partner. He/she is to be "a one-spouse sort of a person."
8. The ELDERS have the responsibility of giving or refusing approval to each application for marriage of divorced persons, and also any others referred by the pastor, according to the policy of the Church as stated above. They will give careful and prayerful consideration to each application on its own merit.

9. The Bible does not specifically treat the subject of those in the five fold ministries any different than it does the rest of those who are a part of the New Covenant. The highest standard is help up for all that are IN CHRIST.

*fornication" *Porneia* – used in the Bible to refer to unlawful sexual intercourse; generally can include all types of sexual sin both before and after marriage. This term is not restricted to pre-marital sin.

*adultery" *Mokeia*- refers to unfaithfulness after marriage. This is a more restricted term.

All adultery is fornication, but not all fornication is adultery. In using the more general term "fornication" in Matthew 19:9, both pre-marital and post-marital sin could be grounds for divorce.

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