

GOD'S STANDARDS REGARDING MARRIAGE

ADOPTED DECEMBER 1997

1. GOD ORDAINED MARRIAGE. (I.e. Marriage was instituted by God.) “AND THE LORD GOD SAID, IT IS NOT GOOD THAT THE MAN SHOULD BE ALONE; I WILL MAKE HIM A HELP-MEET FOR HIM.” Genesis 2:18 (KJV)

2. GOD CHOOSES THE PERSON WHOM YOU SHOULD MARRY. “AND THE LORD GOD CAUSED A DEEP SLEEP TO FALL UPON ADAM, AND HE SLEPT: AD HE TOOK ONE OF HIS RIBS, AND CLOSED UP THE FLESH INSTEAD THEREOF; AND THE RIB, WHICH THE LORD GOD HAD TAKEN FROM MAN, MADE HE A WOMAN, AND BROUGHT HER UNTO THE MAN.” Genesis 2:21-22

3. MARRIAGE IS A PERMANENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE. “AND ADAM SAID, THIS IS NOW BONE OF MY BONES, AND FLESH OF MY FLESH: SHE SHALL BE CALLED WOMAN, BECAUSE SHE WAS TAKEN OUT OF MAN. THEREFORE SHALL A MAN LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL CLEAVE UNTO HIS WIFE: AND THEY SHALL BE ONE FLESH.” Genesis 2:23 & 24 (KJV)

“THOU SHALT NOT LIE WITH MANKIND, AS WITH WOMANKIND: IT IS ABOMINATION.” Leviticus 18:22 (KJV)

4. MARRIAGE IS SACRED UNTO THE LORD. “WHOSO FINDETH A WIFE FINDETH A GOOD THING, AND OBTAINETH FAVOUR OF THE LORD.” Proverbs 19:22 (KJV)

5. THE MARRIAGE VOWS THAT ONE MAKES ARE TO BE FOREVER. “WHOSOEVER PUTTETH AWAY HIS WIFE, AND MARRIETH ANOTHER, COMMITTETH ADULTERY: AND WHOSOEVER MARRIETH HER THAT IS PUT AWAY FROM HER HUSBAND COMMITTETH ADULTERY.” Luke 16:18 (KJV)

6. THE MARRIAGE BOND IS ONLY BROKEN BY DEATH. “FOR THE WOMAN WHICH HATH AN HUSBAND IS BOUND BY THE LAW TO HER HUSBAND SO LONG AS HE LIVETH; BUT IF THE HUSBAND BE DEAD, SHE IS LOOSED FROM THE LAW OF HER HUSBAND.” Romans 7:2 (KJV)

“THE WIFE IS BOUND BY THE LAW AS LONG AS HER HUSBAND LIVETH; BUT IF HER HUSBAND BE DEAD, SHE IS AT LIBERTY TO BE MARRIED TO WHOM SHE WILL; ONLY IN THE LORD.” 1 Corinthians 7:39 (KJV)

“NOW FOR THOSE WHO ARE MARRIED I HAVE A COMMAND, NOT JUST A SUGGESTION. AND IT IS NOT A COMMAND FROM ME, FOR THIS IS WHAT HE LORD HIMSELF HAS SAID: A WIFE MUST NOT LEAVE HER HUSBAND. BUT IF SHE IS SEPARATED FROM HIM, LET HER REMAIN

SINGLE OR ELSE GO BACK TO HIM. AND THE HUSBAND MUST NOT DIVORCE HIS WIFE.” 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 (The Living Bible)

7. NO COURT FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE CAN GRANT A DIVORCE TO A BELIEVER. “WHAT THEREFORE GOD HATH JOINED TOGETHER, LET NOT MAN PUT ASUNDER. AND IN THE HOUSE HIS DISCIPLES ASKED HIM AGAIN OF THE SAME MATTER. AND HE SAITH UNTO THEM, WHOSOEVER SHALL PUT AWAY HIS WIFE, AND MARRY ANOTHER, COMMITTETH ADULTERY AGAINST HER. AND IF A WOMAN SHALL PUT AWAY HER HUSBAND, AND BE MARRIED TO ANOTHER, SHE COMMITTETH ADULTERY.” Mark 10:9-12 (KJV)

“WHEN ONE OF YOU HAS A GRIEVANCE AGAINST A BROTHER, DOES HE DARE GO TO LAW BEFORE THE UNRIGHTEOUS INSTEAD OF THE SAINTS? DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT THE SAINTS WILL JUDGE THE WORLD? AND IF THE WORLD IS TO BE JUDGED BY YOU, ARE YOU INCOMPETENT TO TRY TRIVIAL CASES? DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT WE ARE TO JUDGE ANGELS? HOW MUCH MORE, MATTERS PERTAINING TO THIS LIFE! IF THEN YOU HAVE SUCH CASES, WHY DO YOU LAY THEM BEFORE THOSE WHO ARE LEAST ESTEEMED BY THE CHURCH? I SAY THIS TO YOUR SHAME. CAN IT BE THAT THERE IS NO MAN AMONG YOU WISE ENOUGH TO DECIDE BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE BROTHERHOOD, BUT BROTHER GOES TO LAW AGAINST BROTHER, AND THAT BEFORE UNBELIEVERS? TO HAVE LAWSUITS AT ALL WITH ONE ANOTHER IS DEFEAT FOR YOU. WHY NOT RATHER SUFFER WRONG? WHY NOT RATHER BE DEFRAUDED? BUT YOU YOURSELVES WRONG AND DEFRAUD, AND THAT EVEN YOUR OWN BRETHREN. DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT THE UNRIGHTEOUS WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD? DO NOT BE DECEIVED; NEITHER THE IMMORAL, NOR IDOLATERS, NOR ADULTERERS, NOR SEXUAL PERVERTS, NOR THEIVES, NOR THE GREEDY, NOR DRUNKARDS, NOR REVILERS, NOR ROBBERS WILL INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD. AND SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU. BUT YOU WERE WASHED, YOU WERE SANCTIFIED, YOU WERE JUSTIFIED IN THE NAME OF YOUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AND IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR GOD.” 1 Corinthians 6:1-11 (Contemporary English Version)

“DARE ANY OF YOU, HAVING A MATTER AGAINST ANOTHER, GO TO LAW BEFORE THE UNJUST, AND NOT BEFORE THE SAINTS? DO YE NOT KNOW THAT THE SAINTS SHALL JUDGE THE WORLD? AND IF THE WORLD SHALL BE JUDGED BY YOU, ARE YE UNWORTHY TO JUDGE THE SMALLEST MATTERS? KNOW YE NOT THAT WE SHALL JUDGE ANGELS? HOW MUCH MORE THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO THIS LIFE? IF THEN YE HAVE JUDGEMENTS PERTAINING TO THIS LIFE, SET THEM TO JUDGE WHO ARE ESTEEMED IN THE CHURCH. I SPEAK TO YOUR SHAME. IS IT SO, THAT THERE IS NOT A WISE MAN AMONG YOU? NO, NOT ONE SHALL BE ABLE TO JUDGE BETWEEN HIS BRETHREN? BUT BROTHER GOETH TO LAW WITH BROTHER, LAND THAT BEFORE THE UNBELIEVERS. NOW THEREFORE THERE IS UTTERLY A FAULT AMONG YOU, BECAUSE YE GO TO LAW ONE WITH ANOTHER. WHY DO YE NOT DO WRONG, AND DEFRAUD, AND THAT YOUR BRETHREN. KNOW YE NOT THAT THE UNRIGHTEOUS SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD? BE NOT DECEIVED: NEITHER FORNICATORS, NOR IDOLATERS, NOR ADULTERERS, NOR EFFEMINATE, NOR ABUSERS OF THEMSELVES WITH MANKIND, NOR THEIVES, NOR COVETOUS, NOR DRUNKARDS, NOR REVILERS, NOR EXTORTIONERS, SHALL INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD.” 1 Corinthians 6:1-11 (KJV)

8. A CHRISTIAN WEDDING IN THE CHURCH IS DESIGNED TO DEPICT CHRIST'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH. (When a man takes on a bride he is to emulate Christ's relationship to the Church.) "SUBMITTING YOURSELVES ONE TO ANOTHER IN THE FEAR OF GOD. WIVES, SUBMIT YOURSELVES UNTO YOUR OWN HUSBANDS, AS UNTO THE LORD. FOR THE HUSBAND IS THE HEAD OF THE WIFE, EVEN AS CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH: AND HE IS THE SAVIOUR OF THE BODY. THEREFORE AS THE CHURCH IS SUBJECT UNTO CHRIST, SO LET THE WIVES, EVEN AS CHRIST ALSO LOVED THE CHURCH, AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR IT; THAT HE MIGHT SANCTIFY AND CLEANSE IT WITH THE WASHING OF WATER BY THE WORD, THAT HE MIGHT PRESENT IT TO HIMSELF A GLORIOUS CHURCH, NOT HAVING SPOT, OR WRINKLE, OR ANY SUCH THING; BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLEMISH. SO OUGHT MEN TO LOVE THEIR WIVES AS THEIR OWN BODIES. HE THAT LOVETH HIS WIFE LOVETH HIMSELF. FOR NO MAN EVER YET HATED HIS OWN FLESH; BUT NOURISHETH AND CHERISHETH IT, EVEN AS THE LORD THE CHURCH. FOR WE ARE MEMBERS OF HIS BODY, OF HIS FLESH, AND OF HIS BONES. FOR THIS CAUSE SHALL A MAN LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL BE JOINED UNTO HIS WIFE, AND THEY TWO SHALL BE ONE FLESH. THIS IS A GREAT MYSTERY: BUT I SPEAK CONCERNING CHRIST AND THE CHURCH. NEVERTHELESS LET EVERY ONE OF YOU IN PARTICULAR SO LOVE HIS WIFE EVEN AS HIMSELF; AND THE WIFE SEE THAT SHE REVERENCE HER HUSBAND." Ephesians 5:21-33 (KJV)

9. THE SANCTUARY HAS BEEN SET ASIDE AND SANCTIFIED TO THE GLORY OF GOD. (The sanctuary is where God dwells among his people.) "IF ANY MAN DEFILE THE TEMPLE OF GOD, HIM SHALL GOD DESTROY; FOR THE TEMPLE OF GOD IS HOLY..." 1 Corinthians 3:17 (KJV)

"YE SHALL KEEP MY SABBATHS, AND REVERENCE MY SANCTUARY: I AM THE LORD."
Leviticus 19:30

10. GOD'S LOVE IS THE FOUNDATION OF A CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE. "LOVE IS PATIENT AND KIND, NEVER JEALOUS OR ENVIOUS, NEVER BOASTFUL OR PROUD, NEVER HAUGHTY OR SELFISH OR RUDE. LOVE DOES NOT DEMAND ITS OWN WAY. IT IS NOT IRRITABLE OR TOUCHY. IT DOES NOT HOLD GRUDGES AND WILL HARDLY EVEN NOTICE WHEN OTHERS DO IT WRONG. IT IS NEVER GLAD ABOUT INJUSTICE, BUT REJOICES WHENEVER TRUTH WINS OUT. IF YOU LOVE SOMEONE YOU WILL BE LOYAL TO HIM [OR HER] NO MATTER WHAT THE COST. YOU WILL ALWAYS BELIEVE IN HIM [OR HER], ALWAYS EXPECT THE BEST OF HIM [OR HER], AND ALWAYS STAND YOUR GROUND IN DEFENDING HIM [OR HER]...LOVE GOES ON FOREVER." 1 Corinthians 13:4-8b (The Living Bible)

"LOVE IS PATIENT AND KIND; LOVE IS NOT JEALOUS OR BOASTFUL; IT IS NOT ARROGANT OR RUDE. LOVE DOES NOT INSIST ON ITS OWN WAY; IT IS NOT IRRITABLE OR RESENTFUL; IT DOES NOT REJOICE AT WRONG, BUT REJOICES IN THE RIGHT. LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, BELIEVES ALL THINGS, HOPES ALL THINGS, ENDURES ALL THINGS. LOVE NEVER ENDS;..." 1 Corinthians 13:48a (RSV)

"DO NOT USE LIBERTY AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FLESH, BUT THROUGH LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER." Galatians 5:13 (KJV)

“YOU WERE CALLED TO BE FREE. BUT DO NOT USE YOUR FREEDOM TO INDULGE IN SINFUL NATURE; RATHER, SERVE ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE.” Galatians 5:13 (NIV)

11. GOD HAS DESIGNED THESE STANDARDS TO HELP US, OUR CHILDREN AND THE FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ESTABLISH A SOUND AND VIABLE MORAL STANDARD OF LIFE AND LIVING. “FOR EVER, O LORD, THY WORD IS SETTLED IN HEAVEN. THY FAITHFULNESS IS UNTO ALL GENERATIONS...” Psalm 119:89-90a (KJV)

“THEREFORE SHALL YE OBSERVE ALL MY STATUTES, AND ALL MY JUDGEMENTS, AND DO THEM: I AM THE LORD.” Leviticus 19:37 (KJV)

12. GOD HAS SET THE STANDARD FOR MARRIAGE IN HIS WORD AND FOR THOSE THAT ADHERE TO THE STANDARD THEY WILL BE BLESSED.

“GREAT PEACE HAVE THOSE WHO LOVE YOUR[GOD'S] LAW, AND NOTHING CAUSES THEM TO STUMBLE.” Psalm 119:165 (KJV)

“BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH DO HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS: FOR THEY SHALL BE FILLED.” Matthew 5:6 (KJV)

“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEY SHALL BE SATISFIED.” Matthew 5:6 (RSV)

“THE LORD SHALL ESTABLISH THEE AN HOLY PEOPLE UNTO HIMSELF, AS HE HATH SWORN UNTO THEE, IF THOU SHALT KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD THY GOD, AND WALK IN HIS WAYS...AND THE LORD SHALL MAKE THEE PLENTIOUS IN GOODS, IN FRUIT OF THY BODY, AND IN THE FRUIT OF THY CATTLE, AND IN THE FRUIT OF THY GROUND...THE LORD SHALL OPEN UNTO THEE HIS GOOD TREASURE, AT THE HEAVEN TO GIVE THE RAIN UNTO THY LAND IN HIS SEASON, AND TO BLESS ALL THE WORK OF THINE HAND...” Deuteronomy 28:9, 11-12a (KJV)

“THE LORD WILL ESTABLISH YOU AS HIS HOLY PEOPLE, AS HE PROMISED YOU AN OATH, IF YOU KEEP THE COMMANDS OF THE LORD YOUR GOD AND WALK IN HIS WAYS...THE LORD WILL GRANT YOU ABUNDANT PROSPERITY--IN THE FRUIT OF YOUR WOMB, THE YOUNG OF YOUR LIVESTOCK AND THE CROPS OF YOUR GROUND...THE LORD WILL OPEN THE HEAVENS, THE STOREHOUSE OF HIS BOUNTY, TO SEND RAIN ON YOUR HAND IN SEASON AND TO BLESS ALL THE WORK OF YOUR HANDS.” Deuteronomy 28:9, 11-12a

GOD'S STANDARDS REGARDING MARRIAGE AND ISSUES CONCERNING DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE, PUBLIC COHABITATION (i. e. Living Together), AND HAVING CHILDREN OUTSIDE WEDLOCK

FOR THOSE PERSONS WHO HAVE VIOLATED THE STANDARDS OF GOD IN THE MARRIAGE CONTEXT THEN IN ORDER TO GET INTO GOOD GRACES WITH GOD ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORD...

1. ONE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE HIS OR HER TRANSGRESSIONS. “O LOVING AND KIND GOD, HAVE MERCY. HAVE PITY UPON ME AND TAKE AWAY THE AWFUL STAIN OF MY TRANSGRESSIONS. OH, WASH ME, CLEANSE ME FROM THIS GUILT. LET ME BE PURE AGAIN. FOR I ADMIT MY SHAMEFUL DEED--IT HAUNTS ME DAY AND NIGHT. IT IS AGAINST YOU AND YOU ALONE I SINNED, AND DID THIS TERRIBLE THING. YOU SAW IT ALL, AND YOUR SENTENCE AGAINST ME IS JUST, BUT I WAS BORN A SINNER, YES FROM THE MOMENT MY MOTHER CONCEIVED ME. YOU DESERVE HONESTY FROM THE HEART; YES, UTTER SINCERITY AND TRUTHFULNESS. OH, GIVE ME THIS WISDOM. SPRINKLE ME WITH THE CLEANSING BLOOD AND I SHALL BE CLEAN AGAIN. WASH ME AND I SHALL BE WHITER THAN SNOW. AND AFTER YOU HAVE PUNISHED ME, GIVE ME BACK MY JOY AGAIN. DON'T KEEP LOOKING AT MY SINS--ERASE THEM FROM YOUR SIGHT. CREATE IN ME A NEW, CLEAN HEART, O GOD, FILLED WITH CLEAN THOUGHTS AND RIGHT DESIRES. DON'T TOSS ME ASIDE, BANISHED FOREVER FROM YOUR PRESENCE. DON'T TAKE YOUR HOLY SPIRIT FROM ME. RESTORE TO ME AGAIN THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION, AND MAKE ME WILLING TO OBEY YOU.” Psalm 51:1-12 (The Living Bible)

2. ONE MUST COME WITH A CONTRITE* SPIRIT. “IT IS A BROKEN SPIRIT YOU WANT--REMORSE AND PENITENCE. A BROKEN AND CONTRITE HEART, O GOD, YOU WILL NOT IGNORE.” Psalms 51:17 (The Living Bible)

“BUT THIS IS THE MAN [OR WOMAN] TO WHOM I WILL LOOK, HE [OR SHEE] THAT IS HUMBLE AND CONTRITE IN SPIRIT, AND TREMBLES AT MY WORD.” Isaiah 66:2b (Contemporary English Version)

“FOR THUS SAITH THE HIGH AND LOFTY ONE THAT INHABITETH ETERNITY, WHOSE NAME IS HOLY; I DWELL IN THE HIGH AND HOLY PLACE, WITH HIM ALSO THAT IS OF A CONTRITE AND HUMBLE SPIRIT TO REVIVE THE SPIRIT OF THE HUMBLE, AND TO REVIVE THE HEART OF THE CONTRITE ONES.” Isaiah 57:15 (KJV)

“THE HIGH AND LOFTY ONE WHO INHABITS ETERNITY, THE HOLY ONE, SAYS THIS: I LIVE IN THAT HIGH AND HOLY PLACE WHERE THOSE WITH CONTRITE HUMBLE SPIRITS DWELL; AND I REFRESH THE HUMBLE AND GIVE NEW COURAGE TO THOSE WITH REPENTANT HEARTS.” Isaiah 57:15 (The Living Bible)

*Contrite is defined as deeply and humbly sorry for one's sins; penitent resulting in remorse.

3. ONE FOREGITS ONE'S PRIVILEGE OF BEING MARRIED IN THE SANCTUARY.

4. GOD WANTS TO HELP RESTORE YOUR DIGNITY. “I AM SAYING THIS TO HELP YOU, NOT TO TRY TO KEEP YOU FROM MARRYING. I WANT YOU TO DO WHATEVER WILL HELP YOU SERVE THE LORD BEST, WITH AS FEW OTHER THINGS TO DISTRACT YOUR ATTENTION FROM HIM. BUT IF ANYONE FEELS HE [OR SHE] OUGHT TO MARRY BECAUSE HE [OR SHE] HAS TROUBLE CONTROLLING HIS [OR HER] PASSIONS, IT IS ALL RIGHT, IT IS NOT A SIN; LET HIM MARRY. BUT IF A MAN [OR WOMAN] HAS THE WILLPOWER NOT TO MARRY AND DECIDES THAT HE [OR SHE] DOESN'T NEED TO AND WON'T, HE [OR SHE] HAS MADE A WISE DECISION. SO THE PERSON WHO MARRIES DOES WELL, AND THE PERSON WHO DOESN'T MARRY DOES EVEN BETTER.” 1 Corinthians 7:35-36 (The Living Bible)

THE CONCLUSION REGARDING MARRIAGE ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD IS:

May “...THE GRACE OF..[OUR] LORD [AND SAVIOUR] JESUS CHRIST AND THE LOVE OF GOD AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BE WITH YOU...[BOTH] NOW AND FOREVER MORE. AMEN.” 2 Corinthians 13:14 (RSV)