

THE ROCK OF ROSEVILLE

Position, Statement Regarding Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage

1. Marriage has been established by God as an indissoluble human union, and is to be kept intact as a sacred covenant between God, one husband, and one wife for life! (Malachi 2:13-15, Mark 10:9)
2. Marriage is a sacred covenant, which God has established as an earthly copy or type of the faithful, enduring, love relationship between Jesus Christ and His redeemed people. (Ephesians 5:22-33)
3. Divorce is a tragic dissolution of the marriage covenant that is a result of human sin and unfaithfulness – especially “hard-heartedness” – which implies an unwillingness to forgive and to be reconciled. (Malachi 2:16)
4. Scripture allows for separation or divorce in certain extreme cases that will allow for respect to human frailty for the protection of the innocent party. (Matthew 5:32)
5. In most cases, the clear teaching of God’s Word is that the estranged marriage partners embrace one of two scriptural options:
 1. Remain single, or
 2. Be reconciled to their marriage partner
(1 Corinthians 7:10-11, Matthew 5:31-32, Matthew 20:9)
6. Scripture clearly allows for re-marriage to another partner in the case of spousal death, unrepentant and ongoing sexual unfaithfulness, if the unbelieving spouse leaves and divorces or certain abandonment of the marriage relationship by the other spouse (as typified by Israel’s abandonment of Jehovah in Old Testament times). (Matthew 5:31-32, Romans 7:2-3, 1 Corinthians 7:15)

It is our position that spousal abandonment cannot be established with certainty apart from the passing of time, and we consider several years of sincerely seeking reconciliation an appropriate and Christ-honoring course of action for any believer who is separated from their spouse.

7. Each case of separation, divorce, or re-marriage must be dealt with on an individual basis and in consideration of the whole counsel of God, the nature and character of God Himself, and of God’s inexhaustible capacity to forgive human sin, to restore broken lives, and to reconcile broken relationships.
8. It is almost always our policy to recommend separation rather than divorce, even in extremely difficult cases.
9. It is always our goal to work toward the restoration of the original marriage whenever there remains as a viable option (i.e. the estranged spouse is still living and is not re-married).