

# **Northshore Christian Church**

## **Addendum IV**

### **Marriage and Divorce**

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God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church (The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people) and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

It is the duty of Christians to marry only “in the Lord”. Those who profess the Christian faith should not enter into a marriage with a non-Christian. It is also quiet unfitting for Godly persons to become partners in marriage with persons who lead ungodly lives thus being “unequally yoke”(2 Corinthians 6:14). For young people it is far better to seek God’s best, the ideal marriage He planned from the beginning. Such a marriage is a foretaste of heaven, for it is a picture of the heavenly bridegroom and His bride.

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last a lifetime or until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery, except when justified biblically (marital unfaithfulness, death, desertion of an unbelieving spouse, or abusive situations).

Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church, they may or may not be considered for the offices of elder and deacon as there is a higher biblical standard for these positions. This determination will be made after a careful review of each man’s situation, as God is able and willing to forgive all sins. God has called us to peace, not legal bondage. This issue must be considered from the whole of scripture’s teaching on divorce and remarriage, forgiveness, grace, and restoration, as well as its teaching on leadership example and the full spectrum of elder qualifications.

(Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Matt. 5:31-32; I Cor. 7:15-17; Rom. 7:1-3; I Tim. 3:2,12; Titus 1:6)