

Grace Community Church
Elders' Statement Concerning
Divorce and Remarriage
8/28/99 (rev. 10/3/99)

Article XIV.

B. Statement Concerning Divorce and Remarriage

After much study and prayer, the Elders set forth this statement concerning divorce and remarriage:

We believe that there are only two justifiable grounds for a legitimate divorce. The first is on the ground of adultery, which provides a basis for the “innocent” party to terminate the marriage covenant (Mt. 5:32; 19:9). The second is if an unbelieving spouse physically deserts a believing spouse (1 Cor. 7:15).

In the case of a divorce on the grounds of adultery, or in the case of an unbelieving spouse deserting a believing spouse (1 Cor. 7:15), remarriage in the Lord is permissible (1 Cor. 7:15, 39; 2 Cor. 6:14).

We believe that every avenue of reconciliation should be pursued before the innocent party sues for divorce (Rom. 12:18).

We acknowledge that in certain instances of severe, protracted abuse, it may be impossible and unsafe for a spouse to continue in a normal marital union, and so we recognize that an abused spouse may, after all reasonable attempts at reconciliation, of necessity depart from the marriage. Although such a departure is not condoned or sanctioned in Scripture, it is conceded. In such instances the abused spouse's two avenues of recourse, are 1) to temporarily separate pending reconciliation, or 2) divorce with no remarriage (1 Cor. 7:10-11).