



separation ***may be required*** depending on the circumstances before a ceremony is performed.

5. If there is a pregnancy causing the biological parents to want to marry who may not meet the above requirements, counseling regarding this specific issue is required to determine the options facing the couple whether it be placing the child for adoption, raising the child as a single parent, or potentially disregarding necessarily some of the Biblical restrictions due to the child.

After reading the policy, if you wish to enlist my service for your wedding, I will do my best to accommodate your desires. If you have questions or need further clarification regarding the policies, or would like to visit with me about it, I would be more than happy to meet with you. I am here to minister and serve.

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POLICY FOR WEDDING CEREMONIES





PERSONAL POLICY FOR PERFORMING MARRIAGE CEREMONIES



DAVID DENHARTOG

Due to the requests many people both from within and without the church have made of me over the years to perform marriage ceremonies, I have developed a policy regarding the performance of marriages. This policy is based upon my understanding of Scripture and my desire to honor God by obedience to Scriptures. While other staff members may have other stances in their willingness to consent to perform ceremonies than the following, this is at present my personal policy:

1. All parties who want to marry are required to secure premarital counseling before marriage. Exceptions to this requirement are

rare and only given for very special circumstances. Counseling will provide a foundation for a better marriage or may in some cases cause the partners to decide that marriage to each other is not the best option. The number of sessions for counseling may vary, but usually will consist of four to six sessions. The counseling normally includes some testing with regard to marriage compatibility. While on occasion I will consent to do counseling, time restrictions often necessitate prospective marriage partners using someone else. My recommendation is to use our church staff counselor, Tom Worthley. Tom has a masters degree in counseling, has a solid marriage himself so that he can speak from experience, and is well equipped to help others. Charges for counseling will have to be arranged with him.

2. If one of the partners is a believer and has placed faith in Christ alone, both prospective marriage partners must have with certainty placed faith in Christ alone. As believers we are free to marry whom we want so long as our partner is "in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 7:39; 2 Corinthians 6:14).
3. With regard to people who are wanting to remarry after a divorce: while divorce may be unavoidable (1 Corinthians 7: 10-11), remarriage may or may not be allowed depending on circumstances. If there has been a divorce in the history of either of the partners there ***may be*** freedom to remarry only if at least one of the following set of circumstances prevails:

- a. The original partner of the divorced person was an unbeliever and abandoned or deserted the believing partner leading to a divorce of the believing partner who now wants to remarry (1 Corinthians 7:12-16). Emotional abandonment does not provide grounds for divorce and remarriage.
 - b. Divorce of the original partner by the party now wanting to remarry was due to ongoing unrepentant immorality on the part of the original partner with another person (Matthew 5:32). Pornography or similar actions does not provide grounds for remarriage should a divorce take place.
 - c. The original partner has now remarried himself or herself (thus equating to ongoing unrepentant immorality and thus potentially freeing the person now also wanting to remarry to do so).
4. If two people are living together outside of marriage, a period of

