

Fremont Presbyterian Church
**Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage
and Service in the Church**



Marriage

Marriage is a joyous covenant between a man and a woman, created for them by God, whereby He joins them in a companionship of love for, and commitment to, each other. God instituted marriage from the beginning of creation (Gen. 2:18-24). In the marriage worship service, the church affirms God's intimate involvement in the marriage covenant, invokes God's blessing on the marriage partners, and assures them of God's grace within their new relationship.

Divorce

While God intends the marriage covenant should never be broken, except by the death of one of the partners, it is broken by the weakness and sin of either or both partners as demonstrated by adultery, willful desertion, abuse, or neglect of the relationship. This gross and persistent denial of the marriage vows causes marriage to die at the heart, and the union becomes intolerable, leading to separation and divorce.

God's call is for partners to love and forgive each other, on a daily basis. Whenever possible, partners should reconcile their differences, and continue to live as God intended. Divorce is not intended as an expedient remedy for partners who simply feel they have "grown apart" over the years.

Remarriage

If a partner's weakness or sin led to a divorce, that partner must confess that sin and weakness to God, and ask for God's forgiveness and strength not to repeat such behavior, before seeking to marry another person. God gives us His assurance of pardon for all sin. (1 John 1:9)

Service in the Church

Divorced persons, whether or not remarried, may serve as elders, deacons, and pastors. Persons who are called to positions of leadership in the church have a responsibility to behave in an exemplary manner in every area of their lives, including their marital and family relationships. Persons serving in such church offices must set a Godly example, and their behavior should be above reproach. Confession of sin, request for forgiveness, and acknowledgement of assurance of God's pardon of sin are continual prerequisites for all persons, including officeholders in the church, regardless of their marriage status.

Fremont's Ministry

The members of Fremont actively seek to reach out and demonstrate the redemptive love of Christ to persons who have difficult marriages, who may be going through the tragedy of divorce, or who are suffering the aftermath of divorce.