

Insertion of proposals into Restatement:

DIVORCE:

(1) We believe divorce is contrary to the commands of the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the apostles. Divorce jeopardizes any possibility of reconciliation. Divorce is an act to be shunned by all baptized believers. Matt. 19:6; Mal. 2:16; 1 Cor. 6:7; 1 Pet. 3:9

(2) We believe that remarriage after divorce is contrary to the commands of Christ and the apostles. We believe that a baptized believer is bound to his or her spouse as long as the spouse is living. If the believer divorces or becomes divorced (after accepting the Truth) and marries again while the previous spouse is yet alive, that believer commits adultery. The marriage is not a God-joined nor holy union: the act of marriage is a sin. This marriage allows for an adulterous union, for it permits sexual union between persons who are not truly married as long as the previous spouse lives. Jesus says they commit adultery. Adultery is defined as unlawful or illicit sexual relations involving one or more married individuals (not married to each other). Mark. 10:11,12; 1 Cor. 7:10,11, 27, 39; Gen. 2:22; Rom. 7:2, 3.

(3) No profession of repentance can be recognized while the believer consents to and continues in the adulterous alliance. This does not imply that the believer should seek a divorce, but he must separate. However, this does not relieve the brother from the economic responsibilities of this union. Matt. 3:8; Acts 26:20; 2 Cor. 7:9,10; 12:21; John 8:11; 1 Tim. 5:8.

We believe that these two evils are not only contrary to divine command but are in direct violation of the deep principles of the mind of Christ and will be considered unthinkable by all true brethren and sisters of Christ.

SUING AT LAW: We believe, and have always believed, that the Scriptures forbid going to law against another for any cause whatsoever, including divorce. 1 Cor. 6:1, 6.

The next proposition is not considered directly in the old Restatement but it is referred to in the guide and we feel it should be added to the Berean Restatement as a stronger proposition, with the ideal of preventing a Brother or Sister from committing this offence.

MARRIAGE WITH THE ALIEN:

(1) The Truth may come to an unbeliever in the married state. In such a case, the man or woman is not to leave the unbelieving spouse if there is willingness on his or her part to continue their association. God recognizes and accepts such a marriage for the sake of the believer and the children. If the unbeliever depart, however, the believer is not under bondage. "God hath called us to peace." This departure, however, does not release the believer from the marriage bond. The believer must "remain unmarried". 1 Cor. 7:11-15, 20, 27.

(2) The marriage of a baptized believer ought to be "only in the Lord." There can be no true bond of unity of mind and purpose between a believer and an unbeliever; they are diverse - one has hope; the other is without hope and without God. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" "Be not unequally yoked together with the unbeliever." For these and many more Scriptural reasons, marriage with an alien must be shunned. It is a serious detriment to one seeking to serve God to his or her fullest capacity. If a believer becomes engaged to marry an unbeliever, he or she should immediately forfeit any ecclesial responsibility or position. The arranging brethren have a duty to explain clearly and faithfully to the erring brother or sister why such a union should not be consummated. If the believer attempts to justify his course of action or continues in that course, he should be asked to stand aside, with a view to his change of mind. 1 Cor. 7:39; 2 Cor. 6:14 - 7:1; Amos 3:3; Gen. 6:2, 5-7;12; Deut. 7:2-4; Ezra 10.

Concerning the matters of MARRIAGE, DIVORCE and REMARRIAGE in relation to fellowship:

Marriage is a type of the relationship between Jesus and his bride, the one Ecclesia. It is therefore absolutely necessary to have a proper and thorough understanding of these matters. No one shall be received into fellowship who holds views contrary to the forgoing, or who is prepared to receive into fellowship those who hold such. 2 Thess. 3:6; 2 John 10,11; 1 Thess. 5:21; 1 Cor. 5:11; 2 Cor, 6:14,17; 7:1.

To all Brethren and Sisters:

This is the basis upon which we meet: The Birmingham Amended Statement of Faith, and the Berean Restatement of position with the preceding amplifications and additions.