



Bryn Independent Methodist Church

Downall Green Road, Bryn, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Nr Wigan, Lancashire, WN4 0DL, UK

Policy Statement on Marriage & Sexual Relationships

The leaders and members of Bryn Independent Methodist Church believe the bible provides clear guidance on marriage and sexual relationships.

Based on this biblical guidance, the church requires its members and leaders, as individuals and as a body, to conduct themselves and act in accordance with the following principles:

- 1. Marriage was originally conceived by God to be a lifelong relationship between one man and one woman that is so intimate in nature that for all practical purposes the two individuals become as one.**
([Gen 2:23-24](#), [Rom 7:1-3](#), [Mal 2:13-15](#), [1Cor 7:39](#), [Heb13:4](#))
([Lev 18:22](#), [Rom 1:24-27](#), [1Cor 6:9](#))
- 2. All sexual activity outside the God ordained marriage relationship is condemned by God's word, the bible.**
([Exo 20:14](#), [Deu 5:18](#), [Lev 18:20](#), [1Cor 10:8](#), [Heb 13:4](#), [1Cor 6:9-10](#), [Rom 7:2-3](#), [Lev 19:29](#), [Deu 23:17](#), [1The 4:3-6](#), [1Cor 6:13-18](#), [Eph 5:3](#), [Col 3:5](#), [Mat 5:27-28](#), [Gal 5:19](#))
- 3. God's word does not condone marriage between those who are born again Christians and those who are not. The reason is that their philosophies of life are opposed to each other at the most fundamental level, such that it is impossible to achieve the intended level of relationship whereby two become one.**
([2Cor 6:14-17](#), [1Cor 7:39](#), [Exo 34:15-16](#))
- 4. God never intended divorce as an option. It is not encouraged but is permitted due to the hardness of men's hearts when a marriage has irrevocably broken down. In scripture, the specific ground given for divorce is adultery.**
([Mal 2:15-16](#), [Luk 16:18](#), [Mat 19:3-9](#), [Mat 5:31-32](#))
- 5. If one partner in a marriage is a Christian and the other is not, this is not a reason for separation or divorce**
([1Cor 7:12-16](#))



Bryn Independent Methodist Church

Downall Green Road, Bryn, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Nr Wigan, Lancashire, WN4 0DL, UK

Biblical References

Genesis 2:23-24

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Exodus 20:14

"You shall not commit adultery.

Exodus 34:15-16

"Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you and you will eat their sacrifices. And when you choose some of their daughters as wives for your sons and those daughters prostitute themselves to their gods, they will lead your sons to do the same.

Leviticus 18:20

"Do not have sexual relations with your neighbour's wife and defile yourself with her.

Leviticus 18:22

"Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.

Leviticus 19:29

"Do not degrade your daughter by making her a prostitute, or the land will turn to prostitution and be filled with wickedness.

Leviticus 20:13

"If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

Deuteronomy 5:18

"You shall not commit adultery.

Deuteronomy 23:17

No Israelite man or woman is to become a shrine prostitute.

Malachi 2:13-15

Another thing you do: You flood the Lord's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. You ask, "Why?" It is because the Lord is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your



Bryn Independent Methodist Church

Downall Green Road, Bryn, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Nr Wigan, Lancashire, WN4 0DL, UK

partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. Has not the Lord made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.

Malachi 2:15-16

So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth. "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.

Matthew 5:27-28

"You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matthew 5:31-32

"It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.

Matthew 19:3-9

Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?" Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."

Matthew 19:9

I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."

Luke 16:18

"Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Romans 1:24-27

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also



Bryn Independent Methodist Church

Downall Green Road, Bryn, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Nr Wigan, Lancashire, WN4 0DL, UK

abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Romans 7:1-3

Do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to men who know the law—that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives? For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man.

Romans 7:2-3

For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man.

1 Corinthians 6:9

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:13-18

"The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.

1 Corinthians 7:12-16

To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be



Bryn Independent Methodist Church

Downall Green Road, Bryn, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Nr Wigan, Lancashire, WN4 0DL, UK

unclean, but as it is, they are holy. But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

1 Corinthians 7:39

A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 10:8

We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died.

2 Corinthians 6:14-17

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

Galatians 5:19

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;

Ephesians 5:3

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

Colossians 3:5

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-6

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honourable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you.

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.