

Committee on Divorce and IFCA Relationship

Report to Board of Directors of IFCA International November 2006

Though the IFCA International Statement of Faith has never included a statement concerning marriage, divorce, and remarriage, we, the members of the Committee on Divorce and IFCA Relationship, agree with the following statement:

Marriage is a divinely-ordained covenant intended by God to be between one man and one woman for life. God hates divorce, but the Bible records the fact of divorce as a reality in a fallen world marred by sin. Any divorce involves sins which are forgivable, but that forgiveness does not necessarily constitute qualification for leadership in the church. There are godly men with strong commitment to a literal interpretation of an inerrant Scripture, and its application to ministry and the church, who hold to differing positions relative to the matter of divorce and Christian leadership. However, this diversity does not relieve our members from the responsibility to seek the one correct interpretation of relevant biblical data.

The committee has carefully examined, in the context of the teaching of Scripture, the matter of divorce and remarriage and its effect upon ministry and membership in IFCA International. It is our conclusion that several positions can be defended from Scripture, and that members of our fellowship hold to various positions with strong convictions about this matter. While recognizing the exegetical integrity of godly men who differ on this matter, we believe the standard for individual membership stated in the Constitution and By-Laws of IFCA International (By-Laws, Article II, Section 6b) reflects a scripturally defensible position. Because our fellowship is deeply divided with strong convictions, we therefore recommend that it is in the best interest of the effective ministry for the fellowship to maintain the present standard for membership. Further, we believe that, because several positions can be defended from Scripture, it is the prerogative of each member church to determine its own standards relative to pastoral and leadership positions. We therefore also recommend that such member churches be urged to appoint and send delegates to Regional meetings and the Annual Convention of IFCA International, regardless of whether they match the standards for individual membership, and that such delegates be welcomed without stigma and urged to full participation.

Adopted by the Committee on Divorce and IFCA Relationship
January 5, 2006, LaPuente, CA
Edited via email correspondence, October 2006