



Marriage and Divorce

Valleybrook Community Church (VCC) understands the biblical ideal for marriage to be a lifelong commitment between one man and one woman. The sanctity of the marriage covenant is rooted in God’s instruction that “a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become *one flesh*” – Genesis 2:24 (ESV) (emphasis added). VCC recognizes within the New Testament two specific grounds for divorce with allowable remarriage – sexual immorality (Matthew 19:9) and abandonment (1 Corinthians 7:12-15). Additionally, VCC believes that 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 underscores the ideal that marriage be a one-flesh union for life, but alludes to the possibility of a divorce without remarriage. Though allowable, this is not the ideal. In this situation, the divorced person is to remain unmarried or be reconciled. The clear teaching of Scripture is that marriage is a gift from God to humanity intended to reflect the unwavering love of Christ for the Church and that divorce should never be undertaken lightly.