

# **Pathway Church Policy on Marriage**

Pathway Church is located Beaver Falls, PA

## **ARTICLE IX – MARRIAGE**

Section 1 -We believe that marriage is a holy institution established by God in creation. It is therefore to be held in the highest regard and considered a permanent bond between a husband and a wife. We believe the divorce of two believers to be inconsistent with God's will for their marriage and with the lifelong vows that were taken before God and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We recognize that, due to the hardness of heart, the Bible allows for, but does not advocate, divorce under these circumstances: physical sexual infidelity on the part of a spouse, or desertion by a spouse who does not believe in Jesus Christ as Savior. However, even in these circumstances the reconciliation of marriages between believers in Christ is to be pursued aggressively. We believe that where the aforementioned two biblical grounds for divorce exist there is a valid biblical allowance for remarriage.

Section 2 – Definition of Marriage: Marriage has been instituted by God and is described in the Bible. We define marriage as the exclusive covenantal union of one man and one woman in which such union is a lifetime commitment. A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by the church only to the extent that it is consistent with this definition of marriage.

Section 3 – Legitimate Sexual Relations: Legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, sexual activities outside of marriage, including but not limited to adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality and pedophilia, are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the church. Further, lascivious conduct, transgender activities and the creation and/or distribution and/or viewing of pornography are behaviors that are incompatible with biblical instruction.