



Divorce Policy

We, the Board of Trustees and Administration of Arizona Christian University, believe the following regarding a biblical view of marriage:

- a. God has designed the marriage relationship to be permanent. (Gen. 2:24, Mal. 2:16, Matt. 19:9, Luke 16:18, Rom. 7:1-3)
- b. No one has the right to break the marriage covenant except for the reasons indicated in scripture; and if anyone does so for other reasons, he or she commits grievous sin. (Matt. 5:32, Mark 10:7-12)
- c. When the marriage covenant is broken, there may be an innocent or injured party. (Matt. 19:8-9, I Cor. 7:15)
- d. Marriage partners must pursue forgiveness and reconciliation (I Cor 7:3-5, I Cor. 7:10-11)
- e. Involvement in a divorce, especially a non-biblical one, can restrict the opportunity for ministry and leadership. (I Tim. 3:2)

Because the Board of Trustees strongly upholds the biblical teaching regarding the sanctity and permanence of marriage and because we are opposed to divorce which occurs on non-biblical grounds and because we desire marital fidelity and harmony of all our ACU family, we, along with the Administration, will generally not hire full-time faculty or staff who have been divorced or are married to divorced persons.

However, applicants who have divorce in their backgrounds will be reviewed by the Administration to determine the basis of the divorce and the extent to which the applicants demonstrate character and can be expected to serve as good role models. The administration will take into account the following when considering any divorced persons, or those married to divorced persons, for employment as staff or faculty, or service as a trustee:

- a. The current and previous marital status of the applicant.
- b. The circumstances of the divorce including the time, cause, and applicant's attitude toward the divorce:
 - A divorce that occurred before salvation may be regarded differently from a divorce that occurred after salvation.
 - A divorce that was the result of a spouse's sexual immorality or irremediable abandonment will be considered differently from one that had other bases.
 - Repentance for the applicant's own contribution to the divorce
 - Demonstration that forgiveness and reconciliation, where possible, have been pursued.
- c. The level of involvement with students.
 - A staff member with little or no contact with students or with policy making would be considered differently than those who do.

Further, if it becomes apparent that biblical standards in marital relationships are not being maintained by married staff, faculty, or trustees, the administration will investigate the circumstances to determine whether the situation can be corrected and whether continuation of employment or service is in the best interests of the Lord's work at Arizona Christian University.

If, at any time, I can no longer adhere to this Statement, I shall tender my resignation at once knowing that I shall be out of harmony with the School's purposes.

Date

Signature