

Christian Counseling Services, Inc.

1415 Bass Road Macon, Georgia 31210 Phone (478) – 474-7101 Fax (478) 474-7335

POLICY ON DIVORCE AND SPOUSAL SEPARATION

DIVORCE

We believe that divorce is permissible and legitimate on the grounds of sexual sin, when a spouse physically abandons the other spouse with no intent of returning and when a non-Christian spouse desires to divorce a Christian spouse. We realize that there are those within the body of Christ who may hold to a more strict position (i.e. only for sexual sin) and those who may hold to a less strict position (i.e. mental, emotional or physical abuse).

As best we can, we refrain from suggesting to any person receiving counseling here at Christian Counseling Services that they pursue divorce. We would hope that such counsel take place between that person and his/her pastoral leadership. Our fundamental endeavor is to try and bring about restoration and reconciliation between spouses through the redeeming power found only in Jesus Christ. We are certainly willing to help those struggling with the devastating consequences of divorce; we simply refrain from suggesting that anyone pursue it.

SPOUSAL SEPARATION

There are no specific passages in the New Testament scriptures which discuss the issue of spousal separation (with the exception of 1 Corinthians 7). Therefore this fact alone makes it an extremely difficult issue to address with one who may be considering separating from a spouse. Much wisdom and understanding must be obtained from those principles of Scripture which may secondarily address having to separate from a spouse. There are certain factors which make it especially difficult. Some of those factors are:

- (1) one spouse is a believer and one is not and the believer is the one who wants to separate
- (2) both spouses are believers but are not under the authority or accountability of a local church
- (3) small children are involved in the decision which means the splitting of parental supervision and care
- (4) socio-economic status of the wife

Under circumstances in which a spouse's life or the well-being of small children may be endangered by the violent or high risk behavior of another spouse, our counselors may suggest that temporary separation be pursued for the purpose of protecting the parties

involved. Such separation is seen only as a temporary measure and is not intended to be a permanent state.