

A Remarkable Community—Divorce (Matthew 19:1-12)

Q and A response

Pastor Brad Kindall

We had a lot of great questions Sunday regarding the very sensitive topic of divorce. In response, below are three links that address how our denomination, [the Evangelical Covenant Church](#), and I have thought through the subject. In addition, I have added some other Q and A below:

[*Divorce and Remarriage*](#)—a policy statement from the Evangelical Covenant Church

[*Divorce and Remarriage*](#)—an occasional paper by Dr. Klyne Snodgrass

[*My Theological Understanding of Divorce and Remarriage*](#)—Pastor Brad Kindall

Question: What do you do with Paul's standards of a husband with one wife?

Answer: This question is in response 1 Timothy 3:2-7:

*Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, **the husband of one wife**, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.*

This section of these verses is quite controversial and scholars differ on how to interpret it. Scholars agree the verse clearly indicates spiritual leaders in the church must not be people of sexual infidelity or promiscuity. **Some would say Paul's intent is the spiritual leader must be centered exclusively on his wife.** Others would say the phrase would prohibit any who have been divorced and remarried from becoming an elder or pastor. Our denomination allows divorced and remarried people to serve in roles of spiritual leadership in our churches. Simply put, the ECC sides with the interpretation I put in bold. [See above articles]