

The Spirit of Hosea Fellowship

Theological Foundations Ministries

The Spirit of Hosea Fellowship (SOH), a ministry of Theological Foundations Ministries found at www.theologicalfoundations.com. We pray that it will be a safe place where you will be blessed and uplifted in your faithful walk with Jesus Christ. Membership is intended only for Christians who believe and practice Biblical moral principles so that we can stand together and not be alone and isolated from those of like mind and spirit.

Because there are so many false doctrines prevalent in today's Church, we think it necessary to define our common beliefs concerning marriage, divorce and remarriage matters in such a way that there is little room for misunderstanding and friction between members.

Becoming a Member of the Spirit of Hosea Fellowship

To become and remain a member of the Spirit of Hosea fellowship, we ask you to read and agree in writing to each of the following Articles of Association, and Standards of Conduct:

Articles of Association and Standards of Conduct

1. Marriage is an institution designed and administered by God for a lifelong union in Holy Matrimony of one man and one woman, according to the Scriptures.
2. God hates divorce and never sanctions it for covenant marriages(a), A covenant marriage is a union where God has joined a man who does not have another living pre-existent wife, to a woman that does not have another living pre-existent husband into what the Bible calls a one-flesh relationship (b), according to the Scriptures.
3. A husband or wife are not to separate from, or divorce their spouse, but if they are, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, they must remain single and celibate as long as they both live, or else be reconciled to each other(c), according to the Scriptures.
4. A marriage may be violated, but not invalidated by adultery committed by either the husband or the wife, or both(d), according to the Scriptures.
5. Any marriage entered into by any man or woman who has a living pre-existing husband or wife is not a one-flesh covenant marriage that is recognized by God, and is considered to be the sin of adultery, and must be repented of and forsaken(d), according to the Scriptures.
6. All homosexual unions are forbidden by God. Homosexual marriages or unions of a woman to a woman, or a man to a man, must be repented of, and forsaken(e), according to the Scriptures.

Scripture references: (a) Malachi 2:13-17 (b) Matthew 19:4-6, Mark 10:4-9, 1 Cor. 7:39, (c) 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 (d) Matthew 5:31-32, 19:9, Mark 10:11-12, Luke 16:18, Romans 7:1-3, 1 Corinthians 7:1-39, Hebrews 13:4, (e) Romans 1:26-28, 1 Cor. 6:10-11.

7. I/We agree to:

(a.) Use the highest form of Christian charity and love in all communications as a member of this fellowship. SOH is not a place for contention or an evangelistic field for any particular brand or branch of denominational theology, but a friendship and fellowship haven. Although gentle theological debates may take place, all members are to carefully discern the difference between disputable matters and foundational truths as defined in Romans 14:1-10. Members should avoid doctrinal disputes or differences of opinions on secondary matters that may break the bond of peace. So, if in doubt, please don't.

Remember that those who love the Lord Jesus from many different denominational and cultural traditions will be invited to join this fellowship so great care must be taken not to offend because of individual preferences not central to the faith we have in common. However, all members must adhere to the formal doctrines expressed in the historic Nicene Creed, and give a personal testimony of being born again into Jesus Christ. Moderators will disallow subjects that are disputable matters within the Church, that is in their sole opinion, at risk of becoming a point of division within this fellowship.

(b.) Take care not to post material that is written by other ministries that do not fully support our Articles of Association without prior approval of the moderators. No copyright material from any source may be posted without prior written permission of the owner and author. Any authorship other than your own must be clearly disclosed in all posts. Please be aware that most "stander's organizations" are compromised on divorce and remarriage matters, so material from them should not be presented here.

(c.) No member may register under an assumed name, or pretend to be someone whom they are not, or present misleading identification in any way. All members are to use their real name(s) as agreed by the moderators in advance. Identification of members and information that may be shared between members such as identities, phone numbers, address and various circumstances are to be kept strictly confidential between members. Keeping shared confidences is a sacred trust. Personal information from here, must stay here.

(d.) No prayers or supplications to any deities or saints other than to God (the Father, Son and Holy Spirit) will be permitted. Neither will any advertising, commercial activity, marketing schemes, spam or political solicitation be allowed. Any attempt to communicate any suggestions of a romantic nature to any other member, or the use of bad language, or serious dispute of the stated theological marriage, divorce and remarriage positions may result in a written warning or instant removal from the fellowship without warning, and without remedy at the sole option of the moderators.

(e.) Every Christian has to walk by faith and not by sight, means that at times we can not see beyond our circumstances and doubts about God and our beliefs assail. Like the old saying goes, when at the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on! These kinds of trials make us strong, and more firm as we see the hand of God at work stiffening our resolve and exercising our spiritual muscles. This narrow way is sometimes dark and lonely, frightening and insecure, which can and does shake our confidence in our stand for the permanence of marriage.

Almost everyone has to choose to believe the biblical evidence before them about Jesus, his Word and the permanence of marriage. It's not just once for a lifetime, or even once a year at some religious event, but each and every day that you choose Jesus. If the going is really tough, minute by minute might be all you can muster, but that is all right. 60 of them make an hour, and there are only just so many more hours left in even the worse day you have ever had. You can make it with God's help. At times like that lean on Jesus and let us hold up your tired arms, like Aaron did for Moses.

Notwithstanding such spiritual valleys, if you ever reach a point of departure from God, or SOH, then please let us know, and ask us to cancel your membership. If in time you come to disagree with any of the doctrinal statements stated in this document or if you enter into, and intend to keep, even for a limited time, a state of sin against God openly, or in secret, please inform SOH leadership in a timely manner, and resign your membership from SOH. Quit and leave, please don't quit and stay.

If that happens to you, and we pray it doesn't, you will still have friends here, who will be praying for you and yours. Just remember that God forgives repentant sinners who admit it and quit it.

(f.) It is understood and accept that the Spirit of Hosea Fellowship is a private organization owned by Theological Foundations Ministries, not publicly held, and membership is by authorized invitation only. Application for, or acceptance of membership, or your continuing in membership signifies your complete agreement of all the Articles of Association and Standards of Conduct.

Your continued membership signifies your agreement to abide by decisions made by the moderators in regard to dispute settlement, conflict resolution and policy enforcement. You will not hold the owners, organizations, moderators, administrators or members of this fellowship liable for any matter whatsoever arising out of the operation of this fellowship. Any member may resign for any reason whatsoever without liability.

We rejoice that you have decided to join us in fellowship, friendship and mutual prayer and support. May God bless you as you grow in God and Christian relationship with us.

Qualifications for Membership, Identity Disclosure, Username and Security

We do not want anyone to become a member of SOH under false pretenses. This is not a normal internet chat organization, group or forum, but a safe Christian fellowship, made up of real people that are part of the Body of Christ. Therefore, each person must agree in writing with the Articles of Association in advance when applying for membership to mail@marriagedivorce.com, along with a brief explanation as to the reason(s) for joining us, and giving a personal testimony of being born again through Jesus Christ..

Upon acceptance, each member should register at the SOH bulletin board using both first and last names (ex: Stephen Wilcox). Each should indicate in the board profile which Country, State or Province they live in. Identities and profiles are seen only by other registered members.

As soon as membership is accepted, moderators must be given updated contact information for use only in case of emergency or security requirements. Such details will be kept strictly confidential within SOH leadership. Please forward such to Chaplain Stephen at mail@marriagedivorce.com.

Godly Friendships

Things that should not have to be mentioned, but will anyway

We encourage building Godly non-romantic relationships with each other. Friends do not endanger friends, so men and women should be careful giving advice in regard to relationship matters to each other, especially when communicating by private message, email or by telephone. Please be wary of snares and temptations, and don't put yourself in any inappropriate situation.

It is always inappropriate to discuss intimate matters between sexes in SOH, privately or publicly. Therefore, if you are approached by any other SOH member with the slightest suggestion or insinuation of a romantic or sexual nature, you must report it immediately to a moderator and/or the chaplain.

In SOH we do not want to ever develop a culture of suspicion, or that encourages gossiping or the breaking of confidences, or the retelling of private matters. Other than for the above, if you have a spiritual concern about another member's conduct, you should use Jesus' teaching on the subject found in Matthew 18 as a guide as to how to handle it.

Safety First

If you are made aware, or have knowledge of, any circumstance that may threaten the safety and security of any person, contact the appropriate government authorities immediately, co-operating with their lawful enquiries. This particularly applies to possible endangerment, abduction or abuse of children. To not report what you know is a serious criminal offence in most jurisdictions. Nothing should have a higher priority.

As it relates to SOH, or an SOH member, please inform a moderator and/or the chaplain in confidence as soon as possible. If we become aware of any situation as outlined above, we will either make further enquires to determine what action to take, or act immediately, depending upon the circumstances.

Making Posts, sending emails or private messages to individual members

Please be certain that you stay within the Articles of Association and the Standards of Conduct in your interaction with fellowship members. This fellowship concentrates on building each other up in the Body of Christ, particularly as it relates to, but not restricted to, Biblical marriage, divorce and remarriage issues. If you are not sure if a subject is appropriate, please err on the side of caution, or ask a moderator for their opinion first.

Please do not forward or post junk mail circulars that make their rounds. They can usually be identified by their suggestion that you forward it on to others. We all get enough of that without it coming from or posted at the fellowship. In other words, please do not allow any spam, political content, commercial or offensive material to go from you to the rest of us. Please remember, the value of SOH will end up being a sum total of how relevant it is to our walks with Jesus Christ.

Inviting others to join the fellowship

We welcome others who share in our core Christian beliefs and practices as stated in our Articles of Association and Standards of Conduct who wish to be a part of our fellowship. Please send a quick note to one of the moderators telling a little bit about the person along with their email address and why they should be invited to join.

Suggestions

Please help us help you. We are just discovering how to build a community such as ours. We need all the help and advice we can get. Please pray for us and be quick to jump in and help. We are part of the body of Christ, and we must nurture and feed each other in love and support. Just drop one of the moderators a line.

Administrator

Cheryl Daniel
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Moderators

Sally Hein, Wisconsin
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Cindy Wittkopp, Michigan
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Theological Foundations Representative

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