

**THE QUESTION OF MARRYING A “DE FACTO” COUPLE WHEN ONE BECOMES
A BELIEVER IN CHRIST, IN THE LIGHT OF 1COR 7:39 & 2COR 6:14**

(Ararua Church – 20/10/96)

This statement concerns a “de facto” couple with 3 children and one had become a new believer in Christ.

Suggested steps to follow:

1. Talk to both people and find out where they are in relationship to Christ.
2. What is their attitude to Christ and the Word of God?
3. Discuss their relationship with each other and their children, as to what degree of commitment and faithfulness there is. Have they been totally committed and faithful to one another?
4. What is their choice and desire regarding the future?
5. Note: They have been 1 flesh for years and have 3 children. In that time they were both non-Christians, and had they been married, this would have been accepted by God and recognized by Him. They should have been married, (and not lived “de facto”), from the beginning of their relationship. It is God’s will for a man and woman to marry, have children, Christian or non-Christian.
6. *1Cor 7:39* refers to a Christian widow, or a Christian virgin, not to a “de facto” couple with 3 children, where one has recently become a Christian.
7. Provided that the elders are sure that both persons are prepared to enter into a fully committed relationship of marriage before God, then I believe that they should be married.