

Marriage:

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH ON MARRIAGE

We believe that God's intention for marriage is established throughout the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments; that God ordained marriage to be the voluntary union for life of one man and one woman; that sexual intimacy is legitimate only within the bounds of marriage; that in Christian marriages, the Church acts as a supportive community encouraging healthy marriage relationships; and that a healthy marriage is the best foundation for families and the raising of children. (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:24; Matt. 19:5; 1 Cor. 7:2-4)

Guidelines:

1. All marriages on Fellowship Baptist Church premises, and by a Fellowship Baptist pastor, will be performed in a Christian tradition.
2. All couples (members and non-members) desiring to be married at the church will be required to attend pre-marital instruction.
3. No wedding will be officially calendared until the couple has met with a staff pastor.
4. Because of the high volume of demands for the facilities of our church, weddings will be limited to members/adherents of the church and their immediate families, unless in limited circumstances an exception to this rule is approved by the entire board of directors.
5. A marriage will be refused if it conflicts with any of the following standards:
 - i. If it is deemed contrary to the church's statement on marriage.
 - ii. If the couple is prohibited from marriage by law.
 - iii. If it is a marriage of a woman to a woman* or a man to man*, or between persons where either or both are sexually ambiguous individuals.
 - iv. If the couple is known to be made up of a committed Christian to a professing non-Christian (*an exception may be granted if the couple already have children together).
 - v. If the couple refuses to take acceptable per-marital counselling
6. Ministers other than our church staff may officiate in weddings held at Fellowship Baptist only after receiving approval by the pastoral staff, and likewise must perform the wedding in a Christian tradition, and follow the same regulations set forth in this document.
7. Fellowship Baptist and its pastors see marriage as a serious responsibility before God. Given this serious responsibility before God, if for any reason a pastor has a lack of peace about whether the couple is ready to be married it is the right and obligation of the pastor not to perform the ceremony, in which case the facilities would no longer be made available for the wedding ceremony.

*herein 'man' is defined as a person born of the male sex and who has remained so without change throughout his life.

*herein 'woman' is defined as a person born of the female sex and who has remained so without change throughout her life.