

## **Marriage Policy**

***Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother  
and hold fast to his wife,  
and they shall become one flesh.***

**Genesis 2:24**

We believe that marriage was ordained by God early in the Biblical record (Gen. 2:18-25). He created marriage to be an exclusive relationship between “*a man*” and “*his wife*,” publicly acknowledged at some social event where he will “*leave his parents*,” to be permanently “*joined*” to his wife, consummating the marriage and becoming “*one flesh*” through sexual intercourse.

God created marriage for *completeness* and *companionship*. He wants us to understand that marriage is the *total commitment* of the *total person* for as long as we live. As such, when a man and a woman join in marriage, committed to God and committed to communicating the fullness of their lives to each other, they cannot help but succeed.

As a body of Believer’s committed to bringing honor and glory to the Lord Jesus Christ through obedience to Him and His Word, we believe that the Bible establishes several guidelines regarding the institution of marriage:

- *Marriage involves a biological male and female* (Gen 1:26-28; 2:24).
- *Marriage is sealed by a covenant in the presence of God* (Mal 2:14; Eze. 16:8; Prov 2:17-18).
- *Marriage is consummated through sexual intercourse* (1 Cor 7:1-4; Heb 13:4).
- *Marriage is recognized by the established culture or government* (Rom 13:1-7; 1 Pet 2:13).
- *Marriage is encouraged between couples who are “equally yoked,” i.e. two Believers, or two non-Believers* (2 Cor 6:14).
- *Marriage is prohibited for those who have been divorced* (Matt 5:32; Mk 10:11; 1 Cor. 7:11, 39).

In addition to the biblical requirements of marriage, Grace Bible Fellowship will gladly perform the wedding ceremony for individuals, under the following provisions:

1. One of our Elders, or an individual of similar doctrinal conviction, will marry couples who meet the scriptural guidelines outlined above.
2. Our Elder(s) will have final discretion as to their involvement in the ceremony.
3. The couple must take part in marriage counseling with one of our Elders, or someone approved by the Eldership, prior to the marriage ceremony.
4. Upon the Eldership's approval, the building may be used by those who do not regularly attend our church, provided they follow these guidelines and those set out in the "*Building Use Policy*."

***May God richly bless you as you plan  
for this very special day in your lives.***