

## ***Calvary Bible Church Wedding Policy***

*The Bible teaches that the Lord created man and woman and marriage (Genesis 1-2), that marriage portrays in a mysterious way the relationship between Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5), and that marriage should be honored by all (Hebrews 13:4). Calvary Bible Church is committed to helping establish and enrich Christian homes. The wedding ceremony is one way we pursue that goal. We want to celebrate this commitment of the couple to one another and the start of this new stage of life.*

*The church has the responsibility to honor the institution of marriage in obedience to the Scriptures, as a form of training for the youth of the church, and as a testimony to the watching world. With that in mind, the Elders have established the policies that appear below.*

***A church wedding is available to a couple assuming at least one of the couple (or their parents) is a member in good standing of Calvary Bible Church.*** (Special circumstances may be considered by the Elders with prior approval by the senior pastor). *The couple must be willing to meet the following conditions and criteria:*

***The Bride and Groom must both be Christians.*** *They must share their personal testimony of faith in Christ with one of the Pastoral Staff or Elders. This is significant since a wedding at Calvary Bible Church indicates an endorsement by the church of the union, and since the Bible teaches a Christian should only marry one who shares their faith in Christ (2 Corinthians 6:14-18). The Church wants to rejoice with the couple on their plans for establishing a Christian home and offer help and encouragement for the exciting adventure of marriage. (For more information on becoming a Christian and finding eternal life in Christ, please contact the pastoral staff.)*

***The Bride and Groom must maintain a Christian testimony during their dating and engagement period by not living together and by abstaining from physical intimacy.*** *The world in which we live does not hold to Biblical standards of morality. In contrast, the people of God are called on to hold marriage in honor. (See Genesis 2:24, 1 Corinthians 7:1-2, Colossians 3:1-5, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, Hebrews 13:4) Though the church obviously cannot guarantee that a couple live according to Biblical moral standards, the Board of Elders does restrict the use of the facilities based on obvious and public breach of those standards.*

***The Bride and Groom must go through the prescribed preparation process.*** *That may include some classes, counseling, and reading. The best of marriages is a challenge. Some degree of preparation is certainly wise. This preparation will provide all marriages with enrichment and may save some marriages from failure. The classes will usually be a series of studies led by a pastor or teacher during an Adult Bible Fellowship class on Sunday morning or a midweek Bible study. The counseling will usually be three to five sessions with the presiding pastor to help address any specific issues for the couple and to help plan a meaningful ceremony.*

***The Bride and Groom must work with the presiding pastor and the wedding coordinator for planning and approval of the ceremony.*** *The selection of music, readings, and other elements of the service, must be approved by the Coordinator or the presiding Pastor. The activities associated with the wedding, including the rehearsal and reception, must be conducted with dignity befitting an event that is designed to honor the Lord.*

***The Bride and Groom must agree to follow the policies and procedures for use of the facilities.*** *Those policies and procedures are designed to maintain the testimony of the church, to maintain the condition of the facilities, and to meet unusual expenses incurred in conjunction with a wedding. Fees will be charged to cover the cost of extra utilities, custodial service, audio-visual services, musicians, and a wedding coordinator. (Honoraria for the presiding minister will be handled separately by the couple.) Present costs can be obtained from the church office. Actual costs will change from time to time.*

***Couples interested in a wedding at Calvary Bible Church should contact the church office as early as possible*** *in their planning process to secure an open date for the wedding and to provide sufficient time to meet the above requirements. May the Lord richly bless the unions that are entered into at Calvary Bible Church.*

*With sincere prayers for the blessings of the Lord,  
The Elders of Calvary Bible Church*