



Marriage Policy

Purpose of Policy

In order to lovingly and faithfully follow the teachings of Jesus Christ in Scripture provided to Man by God concerning the marriage relationship and the family and to also faithfully follow the interpretation of that Scripture according to the Bible Fellowship Church's Faith and Order and Biblical Principles for Living, the following policy governs Marriage Ceremonies performed at Ebenezer Bible Fellowship Church (EBFC) and/or Marriage Ceremonies performed by Pastors of EBFC.

Background

- As part of the BFC denomination we are governed by the BFC [Faith and Order](#) (F&O) as well as the [Biblical Principles for Living](#) (BPL's) concerning Marriage, the Family and Divorce.
- As per Article 103-4 of the BPL's concerning Family, Marriage is ordained by God and is a sacred institution between Almighty God, man and woman.
- As per Article 103-3 of the BPL's concerning Sexual Holiness, God created 2 complementary sexes (male and female).
- As per Article 103-5 of the BPL's concerning Divorce, remarriage can only take place due to marital unfaithfulness of a former spouse or when an unbelieving spouse initiates the divorce.
- As resolved during the BFC 2020 Annual Conference (page 9 of the [2020 Yearbook](#)). The resolution states the following: "*The Bible Fellowship Church understands "man" and "woman" to refer to biological sex assigned by God in the womb. The Biblical Principles for Living reflect portions of our core religious beliefs on human sexuality.*"

Policy

In order for a marriage to be performed for a couple either at EBFC (ceremony performed by either an EBFC pastor or another pastor) or by a Pastor of EBFC (at another location) the following must apply and be agreed to by the individuals seeking to be married.

- Marriages will only be between a male and a female. (Male and Female are as defined in Scripture and the BFC BLP listed above along with the resolution from the 2020 annual conference listed above).
- The couple has participated in pre-marital counselling by a Pastor of EBFC or pre-marital counselling that is approved by the EBFC Pastor performing the ceremony or by any EBFC Pastor if no pastor of EBFC is performing the ceremony.
- If either party of the couple seeking marriage is divorced, the divorce must be acceptable divorce as defined in the BFC Biblical Principles for Living.