

Coral Hill Baptist

Wedding Policy

To the Prospective Bride and Groom,

Because marriage is ordained by God (Gen 2:18-25), a reflection of Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:21ff), and designed to be a binding union for a lifetime, it is vital that several issues be considered before the wedding takes place. It is within the prerogative of the Pastors at Coral Hill to determine which ceremonies to participate in based on our understanding of the biblical blueprint for marriage. Therefore, each couple needs to prayerfully consider the following prerequisites for a wedding ceremony at Coral Hill and/or performed by one of its Pastors:

- Because the Bible commands us not to be unequally yoked together (2 Cor 6:14) and because it is presumed that the bride and groom seek God's blessing on the union, it is necessary that both the bride and groom have a salvation testimony.
- Because the Bible cautions us concerning hasty or irrational vows (Eccl 5:4-5), wisdom demands that there be a period of pre-marital counseling. The couple can expect to complete an online assessment (SYMBIS) at a cost of \$35 for the couple, a minimum of three counseling sessions, an assigned book to be read, and a proposed financial budget to be prepared and submitted. Because we understand wedding vows to be not merely an expression of present feelings, but a promise of future faithfulness, vows must be approved before the ceremony if written by the bride and groom.
- Because the Bible teaches that divorce is not God's design (Mal 2:16), it must be addressed with biblical integrity and tenderness. Individuals who have suffered the trauma of divorce remain persons of value and worth. However, there are significant issues that may need to be worked through. Therefore, we will not consider the possibility of performing a ceremony where either party has been divorced, unless they are active members in the life and ministry of Coral Hill Baptist Church where ongoing care may be given.
- Because the Bible reserves sexual expression to be experienced within the boundaries of the marriage covenant (Heb 13:4), we will not consider performing a ceremony of couples who are choosing to be sexually active and/or cohabitating (John 4:7-26) prior to the wedding date.
- Because the Bible pictures the Gospel in the union of marriage between one man and one woman as husband and wife (Christ and His bride the Church - Eph 5:31-33), we will not consider performing a ceremony that is not between one biological man and one biological woman.

We genuinely desire God's very best for each and every person and we believe that the only way this can be realized is when we live and order our lives according to the directives of God's Word. If you would like to discuss these prerequisites further or need clarification, please do not hesitate to contact one of our

staff Pastors. If you have an honest disagreement with these positions and feel it is necessary to make other arrangements, we will understand.

CHBC Pastoral Team

We have read CHBC's Wedding Policy and verify that we meet the expectation of prerequisites and will engage in premarital counseling as scheduling and time permits.

_____ (Bride)

_____ (Groom)

Date _____

*The copy of the CHBC Wedding Policy is yours. Please sign, date and return the verification sheet to either the church office (Coral Hill Baptist Church, 3260 Coral Hill Road, Glasgow, Kentucky 42141) or to one of our staff Pastors.