Position Statement & Policies on Same-sex Marriage
Calvary Grace Brethren Church

Introduction

This is a position statement outlining Calvary Grace Brethren Church's religious beliefs concerning marriage and our policies based upon the necessary application of our faith to life and practice.

What We Believe About Marriage

We believe, based on the teaching of the Scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments, that marriage is an institution ordained by God from the foundation of the world and intended as a lifelong union of one man and one woman. This belief is supported by the account of creation in Genesis chapters 1 and 2. Genesis 1:26-28 states that God created man in His own image, both male and female. The passage implies that a unity of one man and one woman is in some way necessary to fully represent the image of God in mankind.

Genesis chapter 2 provides a more detailed account in which God created the first man, Adam, and decided that it was not good for him to be alone (Genesis 2:18). God indicated that He would make "a suitable helper for him." God brought all of the animals to Adam, but none of them was a suitable helper for him, so God then created Eve, the first woman, from part of Adam himself. God did not create a second man to be Adam's helpmate, or an assortment of multiple women, but rather one woman. Together they were man and wife and had "no shame" or sin in their union with each other (Genesis 2:15-25).

Jesus, the fully divine and fully human incarnation of God and Lord of His church, reaffirmed the teaching of the Old Testament when He said, as recorded in Matthew 19:4-6, *"'Haven't you read,' he replied, 'that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female and said for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh. So, they are no longer two, but one. Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate.'"*

The Apostle Paul, writing authoritatively under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, states in Ephesians 5:22-32 that marriage is not merely a human institution, but is a special divine metaphor that is supposed to illustrate the union of Christ and the church. For this reason also, only a union between a man and a woman can be a proper marriage because a union between two men, two women, or one man and multiple women or any collection of people could not properly illustrate the relationship between Christ and His church.

Our church follows what the Bible reveals as the *"sure foundation"* of the teachings of Jesus Christ and his apostles (Matthew 7:24-29 and I Corinthians 14:37). The church is called to teach and practice these teachings and is not at liberty to depart from them for a different authority if it is to authentically bear the name *"Christian."* Though we strive to live peaceably with all people and to obey legitimate government authority, in instances involving matters as foundational as marriage we must ultimately obey God rather than man if the two come into conflict (Acts 4:18-22).

Our Faith-Based Policy on Marriage

As a result of these above-described religious beliefs and our belief in the need for a practice of fidelity to these beliefs, it is our policy that the facilities of this church may not be used for any ceremony that in any way approves of, solemnizes, supports or allows a same-sex union. It is also the policy of the church that no pastor or member of the church staff shall officiate at any ceremony designed to solemnize, promote, create or approve of such a union; nor may any member of the church enter into such a union without being subject to church discipline.

Approved and adopted by the Church Council on April 20, 2026