



# Christian Life Church

## Policy on Marriage and Human Sexuality

This is a policy statement outlining the biblical convictions of Christian Life Church (hereafter referred to as CLC) concerning marriage, human sexuality, and related policies based upon the necessary application of our faith to life and practice.

### What We Believe About Marriage and Human Sexuality

Christian Life Church's definition of marriage is based upon the teaching of the Judeo-Christian Bible in both the Old and New Testaments. We believe that marriage is an institution ordained by God from the foundation of the world and intended as a lifelong union of one man born biologically as a male and one woman born biologically as a female. This idea originates in the account of creation preserved 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 specifies that the unity of one man and one woman is in some way necessary to represent the image of God in humanity. In addition, we believe that any alternatives to the biblical categories of biological masculinity and femininity are illegitimate and must, therefore, be regarded as being inconsistent with our biblical faith.

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 ESV](#)). God indicated that He would make "a suitable helper for him [the man]." 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 2:18-25](#)).

Jesus Christ reaffirmed the teaching of the Old Testament when He said, as recorded in [Matthew 19:4-6](#) (ESV), "...Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female,<sup>5</sup> and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?<sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

The apostle Paul states in [Ephesians 5:22-32](#) that marriage is not merely a human institution, but is a divine metaphor specifically intended to illustrate the union of Christ and the Church. For this reason also, only a covenant union between a man and a woman can be correctly understood as marriage because a union between two men, two women, or one man and multiple women, or any collection of people cannot

properly illustrate the relationship between Christ (the Bridegroom) and His Church (the bride). To revise this unambiguous definition of marriage in any form is a departure from its biblical distinction and is to create something wholly different. CLC is not at liberty to affirm any such revisions, regardless of cultural inclination or pressure to do so.

[1 Corinthians 6:9-10](#) condemns a variety of lifestyles including those associated with fornication, adultery, prostitution, and homosexuality. The Bible condemns all forms of sexual immorality and encourages Christians to flee from it because of its destructive effects and because the body of the Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit (cf. [1 Corinthians 3:16](#); [6:12-20](#)).

[Romans 1:18-32](#) makes it clear that it is not only sinful to engage in homosexual unions, but also to approve of such sins in others or encourage their practice.

Sexual activities outside of marriage, including but not limited to fornication (a sexual relationship between an unmarried man and woman i.e. cohabitation), adultery, incest, homosexuality, pedophilia, and bestiality are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the Church. Lewd conduct, transgender behavior, and the creation, distribution, or viewing of pornography, are also incompatible with God's intention for human sexuality. This is made clear by the Bible verses and passages previously stated along with numerous others throughout the Old and New Testaments.

As a result, in order to maintain our consistent Christian witness, and to remain consistent with CLC's long-held beliefs, CLC cannot sanction, approve, or promote in any way adultery, fornication, pornography, pedophilia, polygamy, bestiality, or homosexual unions.

CLC follows what the Bible reveals as the sure foundation of the teachings of Jesus Christ ([Matthew 7:24-29](#)) and His apostles ([1 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 4:18-20](#); [5:29](#)).

### **Our Faith-Based Policy on Marriage and Human Sexuality**

As a result of these above described religious beliefs and our belief in the need for unreserved fidelity to these beliefs, it is the policy of CLC that the facilities and grounds of this church may not be used for any ceremony that in any way approves of, solemnizes, supports or allows a same-sex union, or a polygamist union, or any union which, in the judgment of the pastoral team and the board of directors, in some way constitutes immorality or child abuse.

At CLC, we believe and declare that a marriage ceremony is not merely a civil union but, instead a worship ceremony which honors the Word of God and brings glory to Christ Jesus. Therefore, it is the policy of CLC that no pastor, minister, or member of the church staff shall officiate or participate in any ceremony designed to solemnize, promote, create, or approve of any unbiblical union as previously stated. Any officiant not affiliated with CLC must affirm our position on marriage and human sexuality by submitting a signed copy of the *Christian Life Church Wedding Contract for Officiants* and be approved by our pastoral team before officiating a marriage ceremony in a CLC facility or on CLC grounds. Furthermore, couples wishing to marry must submit a signed copy of the *Christian Life Church Wedding Contract for Marriage Candidates* which states our position on marriage and human sexuality and must be approved by our pastoral team. This contract will allow the minister or officer to withdraw from the ceremony at any point when same-sex relationships, polygamy, or any other immoral relationship previously described are promoted or included in the ceremony. The minister, officer, and church will be absolved from any legal obligation in the matter.

Accordingly, no ceremonies, dedications, parties, or any other event involving unbiblical same-sex relationships, transgender behavior, or lewd conduct will be allowed on the church premises or at any church-sponsored event. Furthermore, it is a policy of CLC that no one engaging in same-sex marriage, same-sex unions, or transgender behavior, polygamy, or any other immoral relationship previously described shall be admitted to the membership of CLC, and no one engaging in same-sex marriage, same-sex unions, or transgender behavior shall hold any office or serve as a leader in any capacity whatsoever in the church.

CLC members seeking to enter into an unbiblical union as stated above will be subject to church discipline.

A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by the church only if it is consistent with the definition of marriage found in this policy statement.

### **Christian Life Church Marriage Policy Statement**

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, Christian Life Church will only recognize marriages between one born biologically as a male and one born biologically as a female. Further, the pastors, staff and leaders of Christian Life Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one born biologically as a male and one born biologically as a female. Finally, the facilities and property of Christian Life Church shall only host weddings between one born biologically as a male and one born biologically as a female.