



PHILOSOPHY OF MARRIAGE Covenant

At Lakeside Church, we believe the following things about marriage:

First, marriage is an institution created by God. Therefore, God has the best and perfect understanding of how marriages should be built. We believe His instructions are provided in the Bible. Therefore, all of our counseling and teaching is based on the scriptures.

We believe that since God created marriage, He is the one who blesses it and makes it holy. Although a wedding may happen in any environment, the church is a logical place for a marriage to begin. However, a church wedding goes far beyond what happens in the church on the wedding day. We believe a church wedding leads to a church marriage. Such relationship involves not only the husband and wife but the entire church family. It is our desire as a church that those people who seek to be married in Lakeside Church continue in fellowship with Lakeside Church in the future. This is not to coerce church membership but to stimulate faith, hope and love within the relationship of marriage.

Since marriage is a holy relationship, we believe the sexual consummation of marriage should happen after the wedding date. Although pre-married couples commonly live together in our culture today and premarital sexual relationships are commonly accepted, we believe the Bible clearly teaches us to put the cart of sexual intimacy behind the horse of marriage. Therefore, couples seeking to be married at Lakeside Church will be counseled to practice sexual abstinence in preparation for their wedding, and couples living together will be asked to separate until the time of the wedding.

Finally, the purpose of marriage is "oneness" In marriage; husband and wife become uniquely united as one. At Lakeside Church we are dedicated to establishing and encouraging this unity in marriage. By doing so, we believe couples will find the greatest fulfillment in the lifelong blessing known as marriage.

We have read and understand Lakeside's *Philosophy of Marriage*:

Bride Full Name

Date

Groom Full Name

Date