

Wedding Policy

Triangle Baptist Church, Nederland, Texas

“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 man not separate.” Mark 10: 7-9

Biblical View of Marriage

In God’s great love and wisdom, He instituted the first marriage. It did not originate in the heart and mind of man, but in the heart and mind of God. (Genesis 2:20-24)

Knowing that marriage is a creation of God, you can only experience true unity with your spouse if you are willing to submit to His design as presented in Scripture. (Ephesians 5:21-33)

This design is grounded in a firm commitment of both man and woman to love God above each other, and a willingness to submit to the roles of husband and wife as defined in Scripture. (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; Eph. 5:21-33)

Upon taking the marriage vows before a holy and righteous God, a husband and wife enter into a covenant relationship that is not to be broken, except through the death of a spouse. (Matthew 19:6; Mark 10:9)

Through marriage, God takes man and woman and unites them in such a way that they are viewed as one person. This oneness reaffirms God’s design for marriage to be the primary relationship in your life, second only to God. (Ephesians 5:31)

While non-Christian marriages may survive, it is only the Christian marriage that can truly thrive and experience the joy that God designed to be shared between a husband and wife. A commitment to following Jesus Christ is the key to a healthy and lasting marriage. (John 10:10)

Statement on Commitments

Triangle Baptist Church is firmly committed to God's plan for marriage as outlined in the pages of Scripture. As such, we can only allow weddings to be performed for couples committed to a Christian marriage.

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Marriage is an institution of divine appointment. It is commended as honorable among all mankind. Because it is among the most important commitments in life, it should not be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but discreetly and soberly.

Triangle Baptist desires to perform weddings for all who make such request. But, understanding the seriousness of the marriage covenant, Triangle Baptist can only agree to do so for a man and woman willing to meet the pre-conditions stated in this policy. The leadership at Triangle Baptist has made this decision for the glory of God and for the sake of our communities. To marry a couple desiring a marriage apart from the principles of Christ sends a confusing message. It leads the couple to believe that God is blessing a life lived apart from Him. This stands opposed to Scripture. While Triangle Baptist does not seek to prohibit couples who reject Biblical truth from marrying, it is impossible to carry out or endorse such weddings. Couples in such a situation are seeking a legal ceremony, not a religious one.

With these statements, Triangle Baptist does not mean to discourage a man and woman from pursuing marriage, but rather to encourage a man and woman towards the fullness of this most sacred institution as created and governed by God Himself. It is the prayer of our leadership and congregation that couples will commit themselves to the teachings of Scripture and obey Christ. Any couple with such motivation will not be turned away.

Pre-conditions to Scheduling a Wedding

Both individuals must profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. God states very clearly in His word that believers are not to be unequally yoked, therefore both man and woman must be Christians. (2 Corinthians 6:14)

Both individuals must be willing to meet with the pastor for an interview and be willing to share their stories of conversion and subsequent life in Christ. (1 Peter 3:15)

Both individuals must give evidence of their faith by exhibiting a life honoring to Christ, and display a willingness to do all He asks. (James 2:14-17)

Both individuals must express willingness to take action against any current situation in their lives that prevent them from beginning their marriage as God intends (living together, pre-marital relations, etc...). (2 Corinthians 7:1)

Both individuals must be active members of a Bible-believing church and growing together in Christ. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

Questions & Answers

What if this is not my first marriage?

If your first marriage ended with the death of your spouse, you are free to remarry anyone under the condition that the individual is a Christian. (1 Corinthians 7:39) If your first marriage ended in divorce, then freedom to remarry is determined by conditions set in Scripture. Please talk with the pastor for more information on this subject. (Matthew 5:31-32, Mark 10:1-12, Luke 16:18, 1 Corinthians 7:10-24)

Does the pastor of Triangle Baptist have to perform the ceremony?

No. However, the pastor does need to verify that the couple meets the pre-conditions in this policy. The pastor must also approve the guest minister.

If approved, what rules are there concerning decorating the church?

The church will open on the day before the ceremony to allow the wedding party to set-up and conduct rehearsal. The wedding party is responsible for clean-up. Contact the church office for guidelines.

What type of music is allowed in the ceremony?

All music needs to conform to Christian standards. A list of songs and lyrics needs to be submitted to the church office for approval.

Building Usage & Expenses

- Church facilities may be booked in advance, provided the calendar date is free and the couple has met the pre-conditions stated within this policy.
- Although the building is available for Weddings, maximum Reception space is for 50 people.
- Smoking is prohibited inside the buildings. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited throughout the entire church campus.

For a list of expected expenses or if you have any questions, please contact the church office, (409) 727-7000.