



MARRIAGE POLICY



HEART LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH
10245 Kennedy Road North, Brampton, ON L6Z 0C5

Definition of Marriage

At Heart Lake Baptist Church we uphold an orthodox interpretation of scripture. We believe the Bible reveals God's design for marriage as indicated in the scripture verses located below:

Mark 10: 6-9: "But at the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. 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".

The verses above reveal the following:

- God established marriage.
- God designed marriage exclusively for a man and a woman.
- Marriage is a life-long arrangement.
- Marriage is monogamous.

In accordance with our orthodox interpretation of scripture we define and recognize marriage as a life-long union between one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others.

God designated marriage as the setting for cohabitation between a man and a woman. We believe a couple living together should get married or move apart.

Sexual Union

Since God intends marriage to be a monogamous arrangement it is our understanding from scripture that sexual relations were designed by God to take place within the context of marriage between a husband and wife. It is only within marriage that a man and a woman were intended to experience God's gift of sexual intimacy. The scripture teaches that unmarried persons are to remain celibate.

BCOQ Resolution on Same-Sex Marriage

We affirm and will adhere to the BCOQ Resolution on Same-Sex Marriage passed at the 2004 BCOQ Assembly (see attached form).

Staff Participation in the Solemnization and Celebration of Marriage

Our staff or clergy will be allowed to arrange for, officiate at or take part in the solemnization or celebration of a marriage only when it is compatible to our denominational/congregational statements on marriage.

Premarital Counseling

A man and a woman desiring to be married by clergy of Heart Lake Baptist Church must attend premarital counseling delivered by our clergy or an individual appointed by our clergy.

Divorce

We believe that every effort should be made to maintain a marriage since God designed marriage to be a life-long commitment. We recognize that in some cases unfortunate circumstances lead to divorce. Although divorce is not in keeping with the standard set by God for the marriage relationship (see Mark 10:2-9), it is our desire to extend grace and fellowship to divorced persons.

Divorce and Remarriage

A request for remarriage by a divorced person or persons to Heart Lake Baptist Church clergy will be considered by the Senior Pastor on an individual basis.