
Marriage and the Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. The wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the leadership of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Aversboro Road Baptist Church Policy

Marriage ceremonies conducted at Aversboro Road Baptist Church will be performed by a clergy of the faith, beliefs, and practices as the church. Family counseling with an ARBC staff minister is available by appointment. Aversboro Road Baptist Church has adopted the Baptist Faith and Message stated above and will faithfully follow the scriptural definition of marriage in the teachings and practices of this church. Therefore, this church will not officiate, solemnize, perform, or host a marriage or a marriage like ceremony involving anything other than the union of one man and one woman as instituted by God.

References:

1. The Baptist Faith and Message 2000, Article XVIII. The Family.
2. The Holy Bible: Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1: 26-28; Psalm 51; 5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1-17; 6; :22; 18:22; 22:6-15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15; 17; 31:131; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.