

## **CITY ON A HILL CHURCH MARRIAGE POSITION STATEMENT**

City on a Hill church believes that the word of GOD, the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments are the authority in the church and the basis for every position, including our position on marriage.

2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21

### **What does the Bible say about marriage?**

City on a Hill church believes that marriage is an institution – taught in the word of God (both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible)- and founded by GOD himself- and is a covenant binding relationship, of love and partnership, exclusively between one man and one woman.

Genesis 2:22-24; Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 10:6-9; Ephesians 5:22-33

### **What does City on a Hill Church believe concerning 'same-sex marriage'?**

Because of the above biblical definition found in the word of God- which does not change (because God and God's word does not change)- the definition of marriage has been in the past, currently remains, and forever will be, exclusively between one man and one woman. The recent SCOTUS ruling concerning same-sex marriage has not changed this biblical view of marriage, which remains. Furthermore, the word of God, in which the church is founded, is clear about the sin of homosexual behavior. This is not based on cultural elements, nor does it change with time, but the condemnation of homosexual sin, is due exclusively to the holy character of a good God. Our desire, at City on a Hill church, is not to ostracize but to love all sinners, while obeying the word and will of God.

City on a Hill church will not endorse, nor participate in any same-sex marriage ceremony. City on a Hill church will not extend church membership to anyone who says they are a Christ follower, but are unrepentant, and actively and habitually involved in homosexual behavior (nor immoral heterosexual behavior or any unrepentant sin).

City on a Hill Church also believes that God in his sovereignty has knit each person together in the womb, and planned out every detail of our lives, and has chosen our birth sex, whether male or female. As such, it is a violation of the will of God, and sin, for any biological male or female to attempt to change their biological status to the opposite that God has ordained.

City on a Hill church also believes in the power of the Gospel, which sets sinner's free and leads to transformation and a godly lifestyle, and those practicing any kind of sin, including homosexual sin, and transgendered individuals, can be changed by this same Gospel.

Genesis 2:24; Genesis 19:4-7; Leviticus 18:22; Leviticus 20:13; Judges 19:22-23; Psalms 139:13-14; Matthew 19:4-6; Romans 1:24-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; 1 John 3:7-10

### **What does the Bible say about divorce?**

City on a Hill church believes that marriage is a lifetime covenant exclusively between one man and one woman. God's will is that both partners remain faithful to each other for a lifetime. There are a few instances, biblically, such as marital unfaithfulness with sexual immorality, abuse, or abandonment by an unbelieving partner, in which after a process of attempted reconciliation occurs that divorce, may be the only option.

Deuteronomy 24:1-4; Jeremiah 3:1; Matthew 5:31-32; Matthew 19:3-9; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18; 1 Corinthians 7:10-16; Romans 7:3

### **What does City on a Hill Church believe concerning remarriage after divorce?**

City on a Hill church believes that there are certain circumstances in which a person may remarry, after being divorced. Such as, divorce after marital unfaithfulness with sexual immorality involved, when physical and/or sexual abuse involved, or abandonment by an unbelieving partner. Remarriage after the death of a spouse, is also desired by many, and something which may be done.

Matthew 19:9; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18; Romans 7:3; 1 Corinthians 7:15;39

### **What does City on a Hill Church believe concerning a Christ follower and an unbeliever being married?**

City on a Hill Church believes that marriage between a Christ follower should only be to another follower of Christ.

1 Corinthians 7:39; 2 Corinthians 6:14

### **What are the requirements that must be met before a wedding ceremony will be performed at City on a Hill Church?**

In most situations, wedding ceremonies will only be performed for actual members of City on a Hill Church. in addition to reading and fulfilling the above requirements- and signing this document- the couple must agree to meet with the pastor- at least 4 weeks prior to the proposed ceremony and agree to any other specific requirements and to any premarital counseling which is recommended. The following resources are also recommended and very helpful.

### **RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS**

'Preparing for Marriage God's way'- Wayne Mack ; 'The Meaning of Marriage'- Timothy Keller; 'Real Marriage'- Mark Driscoll; 'Sacred Marriage'- Gary Thomas

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NAME of GROOM

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NAME of BRIDE

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Date of proposed wedding ceremony

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS prior to wedding ceremony:**

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SIGNATURE of the GROOM/DATE

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SIGNATURE of the BRIDE/DATE