

# New Hope Chapel

## Biblical Marriage Policy



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### 1. Purpose of Christian Marriage

Marriage is a sacred covenant created by God and designed to reflect the relationship between Christ and His Church. At New Hope Chapel, weddings are not viewed merely as social or cultural ceremonies, but as acts of worship and lifelong covenant commitment before God.

Because marriage is a biblical covenant and public declaration, all weddings performed by New Hope Chapel pastors or hosted on church property are subject to pastoral oversight and discretion.

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### 2. What We Believe About Marriage

We believe marriage was established by God to unite one biological man and one biological woman in a lifelong covenant relationship (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4–6; Ephesians 5:31–32).

Christian marriage is intended to:

- Glorify God
- Reflect Christ's love for His Church
- Provide a foundation for lifelong companionship, faithfulness, and discipleship
- Establish a Christ-centered home and family

A wedding ceremony through New Hope Chapel is therefore both a celebration and a sacred commitment made before God, family, friends, and the church.

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### 3. Our Wedding Commitments

At New Hope Chapel, we are committed to honoring and upholding a biblical view of marriage in both the weddings we host and the weddings our pastors officiate.

## **Biblical Marriage**

New Hope Chapel performs and hosts weddings exclusively between one biological man and one biological woman as defined by Scripture.

## **Premarital Preparation**

Couples are required to participate in premarital counseling and preparation as directed by the officiating pastor.

## **Sexual Purity & Biblical Conduct**

Scripture teaches that God's will for His people is holiness and sexual purity:

"For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality, that each one of you know how to control your own body in holiness and honor..." — 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

"Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous." — Hebrews 13:4

And so we require couples pursuing marriage through New Hope Chapel to pursue sexual purity, wisdom, integrity, faithfulness, and Christ-honoring conduct throughout their engagement and marriage preparation. In keeping with these biblical convictions, New Hope Chapel does not affirm cohabitation outside of marriage.

We recognize that not every couple begins this process from the same place spiritually or relationally. If you have struggled in this area, our desire is not to turn you away, but to walk alongside you with grace and truth, helping you grow in faithfulness to Christ as you prepare for marriage.

## **Pastoral Care & Readiness**

Because marriage is a sacred covenant before God, we are committed not only to upholding biblical standards, but also to helping couples faithfully pursue them.

In some situations, additional pastoral care and preparation may be necessary before proceeding with a wedding through New Hope Chapel. When significant spiritual, relational, or personal concerns are identified, couples may be asked to participate in additional pastoral conversations, counseling, discipleship, or other recommended steps as part of the wedding preparation process.

These conversations are intended to provide biblical guidance, spiritual care, relational support, and practical wisdom so that couples can enter marriage with a strong and healthy foundation centered on Christ.

Our desire is not to create unnecessary barriers, but to help couples experience God's grace and pursue healing, growth, and faithfulness as they prepare for covenant marriage.

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## **4. Wedding Ceremony Standards**

Because weddings hosted by or officiated through New Hope Chapel are acts of worship and public Christian covenant, ceremonies and celebrations should reflect biblical values and Christian conduct.

The following standards apply:

- Ceremony content must be approved by the officiating pastor
  - Music, readings, vows, and ceremony elements should align with Christian values
  - Conduct during the ceremony and reception should reflect wisdom, modesty, and respect for the sacredness of marriage
  - Use of church facilities must follow New Hope Chapel facility policies and expectations
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## **5. Pastoral Oversight & Discretion**

All weddings performed by New Hope Chapel pastors or hosted at New Hope Chapel remain subject to pastoral discretion.

New Hope Chapel reserves the right to decline, postpone, or discontinue participation in a wedding process based on:

- Misalignment with biblical teaching
- Misalignment with New Hope Chapel's core beliefs
- Lack of spiritual or relational readiness
- Refusal to participate in required preparation or counseling
- Situations requiring additional pastoral care

These decisions are made prayerfully and pastorally in an effort to uphold the biblical meaning of marriage and care well for those involved.

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## 6. Summary

Christian marriage is a sacred covenant designed by God and intended to reflect His love, faithfulness, and glory.

Through weddings at New Hope Chapel, couples publicly commit themselves to one another before God and begin a lifelong journey of covenant love, discipleship, and faithfulness together.

To begin the wedding process, please visit: **[newhopeplymouth.com/weddings](https://newhopeplymouth.com/weddings)**

For any immediate questions please contact: **[nextsteps@atnewhope.com](mailto:nextsteps@atnewhope.com)** or call **508-830-4644**.

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