

# Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship

*"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever, Amen."*  
2 Peter 3:18

## BIBLICAL COVENANT CEREMONY INFORMATION

### Definition of Biblical Covenant Ceremony

Biblical marriage is a lifelong covenant or sacrament between one man and one woman (Matthew 19:4-6). Biblical marriage promotes the bearing and rearing of children and exercise of stewardship over creation (Genesis 1:27-28). The essence of a Biblical Covenant Ceremony is the Divine blessing of the bride and groom as they exchange vows while God receives the worship of the congregation as they witness those vows and as they offer Him prayer and praise. Biblical marriage is a picture of Christ's love and sacrifice for His church and the church giving herself to Him. A man is called to love his wife. A wife is called to respect her husband (Ephesians 5:31-33).

The Bible tells us that man and woman were created by God as distinct acts of creation, and that being male and female was an aspect of how they were created in His own image (Genesis 1:27 and 2:21-22). Biblical marriage is the joining of these distinct genders into one flesh. Thus Biblical marriage is between one man and one woman. Further, the Bible teaches that while sex within marriage is pure and honorable, sex outside marriage is sinful and will be judged by God (Hebrews 13:4). The seventh commandment, "You shall not commit adultery," protects the sexual relationship between a man and woman who are united in marriage by forbidding marital infidelity, pre-marital sex, homosexuality, bestiality, and the use of pornography (Exodus 20:14, Romans 1:24-28).

### Biblical Covenant Ceremony

A Biblical Covenant Ceremony consists of a man and a woman's exchange of vows before God in a Worship service. Consequently, this congregation will not conduct a Biblical Covenant Ceremony for unbelievers. The requirement to take part in a Biblical Covenant Ceremony is one year of regular attendance at the church and 6 months of pre-marital guidance with one of the Pastors from the church.

Scripture cautions against Christians being un-equally yoked together with unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14). One context within which this admonition applies is marriage. Consequently, this congregation will not conduct a Biblical Covenant Ceremony where one party is a Christian and the other is not. This congregation will present the gospel of salvation to every couple that seeks to be married. The congregation's ordained officers shall have authority to determine what parties meet the qualifications for a Biblical Covenant Ceremony.

A Christian Worship Service takes place in the church and is separate and distinct from a civil marriage, the two are independent of one another. The pastor will not sign a civil marriage license, neither does the church require a civil marriage license in order to perform the Christian Worship Service. If a couple would like to record a civil marriage license they will need to go to a government office to obtain the civil marriage license, have the civil authority perform a civil ceremony, and record the license.

### Use of the church facility

The church's facilities were provided through God's benevolence and by the sacrificial generosity of regularly attending parishioners. Therefore the church desires that its facilities be used for the fellowship of the Body of Christ and to bring God glory. This facility is not open to be rented by the general public.

Facility use will not be permitted to persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs or practices that conflict with the church's faith or moral teachings, which are summarized in, among other places, the church's constitution and bylaws. Nor may church facilities be used for activities that contradict, or are deemed inconsistent with, the church's faith or moral teachings. The pastor, or his official designee, is the final decision-maker concerning use of church facilities.

This restricted facility use policy is necessary for two important reasons. First, the church may not in good conscience materially cooperate in activities or beliefs that are contrary to its faith. Allowing its facilities to be used for purposes that contradict the church's beliefs would be material cooperation with that activity, and would be a grave violation of the church's faith and religious practice. (2 Corinthians 6:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:22.)

Second, it is very important that the church present a consistent message to the community, and that the church staff and regularly attending parishioners conscientiously maintain that message as part of their witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Allowing facilities to be used by groups or persons who express beliefs or engage in practices contrary to the church's faith would have a severe, negative impact on the message that the church strives to promote. It could also cause confusion and scandal to church's regularly attending parishioners and the community because they may reasonably perceive that by allowing use of our facilities, the church agrees with the beliefs or practices of the persons or groups using its facilities.

Therefore, in no event shall persons or groups who hold, advance, or advocate beliefs, or advance, advocate, or engage in practices that contradict the church's faith use any church facility. Nor may church facilities be used in any way that contradicts the church's faith. This policy applies to all church facilities, regardless of whether the facilities are connected to the church's sanctuary, because the church sees all of its property as holy and set apart to worship God. (Colossians 3:17.)

### **Approved Users**

The pastor or official designee must approve all uses of church facilities. Only regularly attending parishioners, ministries from within the church, or sponsored activities of the church are allowed to use the church facility.

### **Facility Use Hours**

Facilities are available between the hours of 9a.m. and 5p.m. Use outside these hours may be approved by the pastor or official designee.

### **Scheduling Events**

Facility use requests shall be made to by submitting the "Church Facility Request form and Agreement". The event will be reserved and placed on the church calendar only when the pastor or official designee approves the use.

### **Fees**

Regularly attending parishioners are not required to pay a fee for usage because the facilities are derived from their tithes and offerings. Donations are welcomed to help cover the cost of the facilities maintenance.

### **Facility Use Guidelines**

1. Alcohol Policy: No alcohol is allowed on the church premises.
2. Smoking Policy: Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the church premises
3. Groups are restricted to only those areas of the facility that the group has reserved.
4. Food and beverages: Are not allowed anywhere indoors (*with the exception of bottled water*)
5. Church equipment, such as tables and chairs, must be returned to original placement, unless arranged otherwise prior to the event.
6. All lights and A/C must be turned off and doors locked upon departure.
7. Clean-up is the responsibility of the group using the facility.
8. Abusive or foul language, violent behavior, and drug or alcohol abuse are strictly prohibited on church premises. Any person exhibiting such behavior will be required to leave the premises.
9. Any person or group must sign the "Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form prior to reservation of church facilities.

### **Church Facility Reservation Request and Affirmation**

#### **I affirm that:**

1. I understand that the church does not allow its facilities to be used in a way that contradicts its faith or by persons or groups holding beliefs that contradict the church's faith.
2. To the best of my knowledge the purpose for which I am requesting use of church facilities will not contradict the church's faith, and I commit to promptly disclose any potential conflict of which I am aware or become aware to church staff.
3. I am not aware of any beliefs that are professed by me contradict the beliefs of the church. I agree to promptly disclose any potential conflicts in belief to church staff.
4. I understand that the church does not allow its facilities to be rented / used by the public, and that my use of these facilities is subject to the pastor's approval, which is conditioned in part on my agreement to the requirements in the "Church Facility Use Policy," a copy of which I have read and understood.
5. I understand that I will be responsible for any damages to the church facilities resulting from this proposed use of facilities.
6. The church believes disputes are to be worked out between parties without recourse to the courts. See, generally, Matthew Chapter 18 and 1 Corinthians Chapter 6. Accordingly, users of the facility agree to attempt resolution of any disputes through Christian mediation.

**Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship**  
(In Fellowship with Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa)

Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship has been formed as a fellowship of believers in the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Our supreme desire is to know Jesus and to be conformed into His image by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are not a denominational church, nor are we opposed to denominational churches, only their over-emphasis of the doctrinal differences that have led to the division of the body of Christ.

**WE BELIEVE** that the only true basis of Christian Fellowship is His Agape love, which is greater than any differences we possess and without which we have no right to claim ourselves Christians.

**WE BELIEVE** worship of God should be spiritual; therefore, we remain flexible and yielded to the leading of the Holy Spirit to direct our worship.

**WE BELIEVE** worship of God should be inspirational; therefore, we give great place to music in our worship.

**WE BELIEVE** worship of God should be intelligent ; therefore, our services are designed with great emphasis upon the teaching of The Word of God that He might instruct us how He would be worshiped.

**WE BELIEVE** worship of God is fruitful; therefore, we look for His love in our lives as the supreme manifestation that we have truly been worshipping Him.

**WE BELIEVE** that the only basis for marriage is exclusively the union of one man and one woman, in which such union is a lifetime commitment.

I (we) agree with the above statement of Faith.

Printed name of Groom \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Groom \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name of Bride \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Bride \_\_\_\_\_

**Please read through the following information; you will initial and sign the paper work at your meeting with the Pastor and facility coordinator at least 3 weeks prior to your Ceremony**

**DEPOSIT:**

There a suggested donation of \$1500 to cover the costs of the Pastor / Coordinator / Sound man / cleaning crew / and utilities. There is also a required refundable deposit of \$500 to secure your date. The deposit will be refunded so long as there is no damage to the facility and it is properly reset.

Bride \_\_\_\_\_ Groom \_\_\_\_\_ *(Initial in the presence of the Facility Coordinator)*

**DATES:**

Biblical Covenant Ceremony times and rehearsals are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Bride \_\_\_\_\_ Groom \_\_\_\_\_ *(Initial in the presence of the Facility Coordinator)*

**BIBLICAL GUIDANCE:**

Prior to your Biblical Covenant Ceremony date you must complete at least 6 months pre-marital Guidance. To schedule your pre-marital counseling, call the church office at (951) 699-9207.

Bride \_\_\_\_\_ Groom \_\_\_\_\_ *(Initial in the presence of the Facility Coordinator)*

**MUSIC:**

Music occupies a major portion of the ceremony and this is an important factor in determining its quality and testimony. **The coordinator therefore must approve all song lyrics. All music must be Christian music, unless it is approved in advance!** If prior approval is **not** received your selections maybe substituted. We ask that you prepare your music for your ceremony (soloists, CDs, etc.) and that they be present at the rehearsal. If you need help in this area, contact your Facility Coordinator. Special permission is required if you plan more than 2 solos. **We require that all musicians arrive one hour before the ceremony to rehearse and have a sound check with the sound-man. (The church does not supply musical instruments.)** All CDs and DVDs to be used during the ceremony must be given to the Facility Coordinator at the rehearsal. All Biblical Covenant Ceremony will begin as scheduled (on time).

Bride \_\_\_\_\_ Groom \_\_\_\_\_ *(Initial in the presence of the Facility Coordinator)*

**REHEARSAL:**

Rehearsals are usually held the day before the Biblical Covenant Ceremony, but your Facility Coordinator will call and give you the exact date and time. **The rehearsal should involve the entire Biblical Covenant Ceremony party.** You are basically the one in charge of all the arrangements; the Facility Coordinator is there simply to help you carry them out and she will rely on the decisions you have made. With this in mind, we encourage you to call and walk through all the details of the Biblical Covenant Ceremony with your Facility Coordinator one or more times prior to the rehearsal for any changes made since your last discussion with her. **The rehearsal will begin on time** to ensure that you may practice the entire ceremony. Any questions and /or changes should be made at this time. With these proceedings, the joy of the rehearsal is not lost in confusion. This will also allow the rehearsal to be **completed in a timely manner.**

**Items to bring to the rehearsal: Previously approved DVDs, music (CDs) or soloists /musicians.** If applicable: candelabra, candles (all candles must be non drip candles), candle lighters, salt /sand, decorations, gift book / pen, copies of map to the reception.

Bride \_\_\_\_\_ Groom \_\_\_\_\_ *(Initial in the presence of the Facility Coordinator)*

## ATTIRE

All gowns for the **entire bridal party** will need to be pre-approved by the Facility Coordinator (some guidelines to follow: backless, bare midriff, plunging necklines and mini skirts are NOT ACCEPTABLE.) Remember, we want Jesus Christ to be exalted and honored at your Biblical Covenant Ceremony and revealing gowns would be a distraction. **Failure to get approval for the Biblical Covenant Ceremony gown and bridesmaids gowns could result in the cancellation of your Biblical Covenant Ceremony.**

Bride \_\_\_\_\_ Groom \_\_\_\_\_ *(Initial in the presence of the Facility Coordinator)*

## BIBLICAL COVENANT CEREMONY FACILITY COORDINATOR

It is necessary for you to return these forms to the church office **no later than 3 weeks prior to the Biblical Covenant Ceremony date.** Your Facility Coordinator will contact you after receiving the completed and signed paperwork. They will be calling to see if they can assist you in any way possible.

Bride \_\_\_\_\_ Groom \_\_\_\_\_ *(Initial in the presence of the Facility Coordinator)*

## BIBLICAL COVENANT CEREMONY DAY

**The Biblical Covenant Ceremony party should arrive an hour prior to the ceremony time.** The ladies should have their hair and make-up done **before** arriving at the church. The ladies should begin dressing immediately in the bride's room, so the photographer has plenty of time to take pictures. A room may be used as a dressing room for the men upon request of the Facility Coordinator at the rehearsal. The gentlemen should bring their jackets on a hanger to prevent wrinkling.

Bride \_\_\_\_\_ Groom \_\_\_\_\_ *(Initial in the presence of the Facility Coordinator)*

## CALVARY CHAPEL BIBLE FELLOWSHIP RULES

1. There is **NO SMOKING** allowed in any of the buildings or on the church grounds. This your responsibility to inform your guests prior to the ceremony.  
Bride \_\_\_\_\_ Groom \_\_\_\_\_ *(Initial in the presence of the Facility Coordinator)*
2. There is **NO DRINKING** of alcoholic beverages allowed on the premises. The Biblical Covenant Ceremony **will be** canceled immediately if this is not honored.  
Bride \_\_\_\_\_ Groom \_\_\_\_\_ *(Initial in the presence of the Facility Coordinator)*
3. All gowns for the bridal party, plus any DVDs, CDs and music lyrics will be pre-approved by the coordinator.  
Bride \_\_\_\_\_ Groom \_\_\_\_\_ *(Initial in the presence of the Facility Coordinator)*
4. There is to be no rice, confetti, birdseed or real flower petal throwing inside the church. All candles must be non-drip.  
Bride \_\_\_\_\_ Groom \_\_\_\_\_ *(Initial in the presence of the Facility Coordinator)*
5. **No receptions will be held at the church.**  
Bride \_\_\_\_\_ Groom \_\_\_\_\_ *(Initial in the presence of the Facility Coordinator)*

So there will be no misunderstandings, we ask that you please sign that you understand and will abide by the rules.

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Bride's signature

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Groom's signature

If you have any questions please contact the Facility Coordinator at 951-699-9207

## BIBLICAL COVENANT CEREMONY PLANNER INFORMATION

***These forms need to be completed and returned to the church office  
at least three weeks prior to your Biblical Covenant Ceremony date!***

Biblical Covenant Ceremony of \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Ceremony in the sanctuary: \_\_\_\_\_ Ceremony outside: \_\_\_\_\_

Ceremony date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Rehearsal date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Are both the Bride & Groom exchanging rings? Yes / No Will you be partaking in communion? Yes / No

Who will escort the Bride? \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be having a unity candle, sand or salt during the ceremony? Yes / No

Which one \_\_\_\_\_ (you are responsible to provide these elements.)

Introduced to your guests as: \_\_\_\_\_  
(i.e.: Mr. & Mrs. Joe Smith, Joseph Ronald Smith, Joseph & Cindy Smith, etc.)

Approximately how many guests will be attending? \_\_\_\_\_

Will the photographer be taking photos prior to the ceremony? Yes / No

Photographer: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Florist: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Musician(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

How many microphones, music stands, monitors? \_\_\_\_\_

## BIBLICAL COVENANT CEREMONY ATTENDANTS

### Bride's Attendants

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Maid of Honor)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Groom's Attendants

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Best Man)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be using the Arboretum? Yes / No

Flower Girl: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Ring Bearer: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
(No real flowers, confetti, or birdseed may be dropped inside or outside)

Sitting/Standing Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Who will carry the rings? \_\_\_\_\_ Attendants will walk in together? Yes / No

Separately? Yes / No

Ushers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

It is recommended that you have at least 4 ushers for clarity of seating. If you are having 200 or more guest attending the Biblical Covenant Ceremony we suggest you have ushers for the parking lot as well.

Do the ushers know who the family members are? Yes / No

Will you and /or the groom be presenting anyone with flowers etc. during / after the ceremony? Yes / No

If yes please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

**\* Reminder please return all paperwork completed and signed no later than 3 weeks prior to your ceremony\***