

Eden Worship Center

Marriage Policy

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." ... 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Genesis 2:18, 24

Marriage was ordained by God for His glory and the good of all mankind. As we read Scripture, we see God calling His people to community - both in marriage and in the family of God (through the local church). However, marriage is not exclusive to the Christian faith. Every culture around the world has their own specific traditions and thoughts on marriage. Our conviction at Eden Worship Center is that Christian marriage should be built on the teachings and principles of Scripture, and lived out in the context of a Gospel community.

Marriage is hard work. Couples need the biblical encouragement and strength that comes from membership in a local body of believers. Pastors are called to, "*Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood*" (Acts 20:28), but they can only do their job of leading, feeding, protecting and correcting those who are within their congregation. Furthermore, other church members can most effectively stand with, pray for, encourage and advise those who they are actually connected with. Therefore, for the health and longevity of a Christian marriage, there needs to be an ongoing membership in the local church.

In order to be faithful in guarding and shepherding those whom we oversee, we therefore limit ourselves to marrying only members in good standing of our congregation, or those with a letter of recommendation from a pastor who's church's doctrine and teaching are in keeping with those of Eden Worship Center (being not opposed or contradictory in formational theological doctrine). All letters of recommendation must be approved by a majority of the EWC elders for couples to be considered as candidates for marriage by an Eden Worship Center pastor.