

Meaning and Requirements for Marriage at Highland Park

Highland Park exists to reflect the glory of God by teaching the Word of God in the context of loving relationships, reaching spiritually interested people for Jesus Christ, challenging them to become serving disciples. Our highest desire is "Exalting Jesus Christ, Loving One Another and Giving Ourselves Away". This mission is behind the way we as a church approach God's gracious gift of marriage. We believe that marriage has primarily been designed by God to bring Him glory as it puts the good news of salvation in Christ on display. It is also a precious gift to His children for their joy and companionship as they participate in the most intimate of earthly relationships.

God takes marriage seriously and has created it for a uniquely important role and therefore Highland Park does not approach marriage lightly. God's Word is our authority in all areas of life, including marriage, and our desire is to marry those who have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ and committed to serve Him with their life. Included in this is a commitment to the leadership and shepherding of a local church. For this reason we only **perform weddings for members of Highland Park Church.** This requirement allows the leadership to know and effectively shepherd the church as those who are accountable to God since they "keep watch over your souls" (Heb. 13:17).

If you are interested in membership we require people to attend Highland Park for at least 6 months before joining the church. We believe members should know their church well and be fully aware of what membership entails. It is strongly encouraged that you attend one of the Highland Park Membership classes before applying for membership. ***Also please note that all marriages are subject to the prayerful consideration and approval of the Highland Park Elder Board.***

Statement on Marriage

God has designed marriage and defined it in His Word as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself (Gen. 1:27; 2:24; Matt. 19:4-6). For this reason, Highland Park Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the pastors of Highland Park Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of Highland Park Church shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.