



Policy & Statement on Marriage

Agreed & Adopted November 2025

1. Our Biblical Conviction

At Birchington Baptist Church, we believe that marriage was instituted by God from the very beginning of creation. In Genesis 2:24, Scripture teaches: "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh."

This foundational truth is affirmed throughout the Bible and given further confirmation by Jesus Himself, who said: "Haven't you read... that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?'" (Matthew 19:4-5).

The consistent witness of Scripture is that marriage is a covenant union between one man and one woman, designed by God for companionship, love, family life, and as a picture of Christ's relationship with His church (Ephesians 5:31-32).

2. Our Pastoral Heart

We recognise that these matters are deeply personal and often sensitive. As a church, we are called to love all people (John 13:34-35) and to treat everyone with dignity and respect, as each person is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27).

While we affirm God's love for all, we also seek to remain faithful to His Word in our teaching and practice. Our stance is not taken in condemnation, but out of conviction and faithfulness to Scripture.

3. Our Policy on Marriage and Church Facilities

- Birchington Baptist Church holds that marriage is only between one man and one woman, as taught in Scripture.
- Therefore, we will not host, officiate, or rent our facilities for same-sex marriage ceremonies or civil partnerships.
- We do this not out of hostility but out of our theological conviction and commitment to the biblical definition of marriage.

4. Our Ongoing Commitment

As a church, we are committed to:

- Welcoming all who wish to explore faith in Christ.
- Offering pastoral care, prayer, and friendship to every individual, whatever their background or circumstances.
- Remaining faithful to the teaching of the Bible in love, truth, and grace.

"Speak the truth in love." (Ephesians 4:15)