



Sabbath Church of God
Marriage and Wedding Policy
November 25, 2023

God established marriage as a sacred covenant between one man and one woman to reflect Christ's relationship with His Church (Eph. 5:21-23). In keeping with biblical teaching, the Church requires any couple seeking to celebrate a marriage by the Sabbath Church of God to sign a statement agreeing with this policy.

Faith – Both bride and groom must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 6:14).

Chastity – The engaged couple must live separately before their wedding day. Sexual intimacy is to be celebrated exclusively within marriage (1 Thess. 4:3). Sexual intimacy outside of marriage at a previous time would not preclude the marriage, as long as the participants are repentant.

Man/Woman Monogamy – Marriage is a sacred union of one man and one woman, with their biological sexes determined at conception. The Sabbath Church of God does not recognize, nor will it take part in, any ceremony that does not meet this basic criterion (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:4-5).

Premarital Counseling – The engaged couple must participate in at least two successful counseling sessions with a Sabbath Church of God minister prior to the wedding ceremony.

Church Membership/Attendance – Either the bride or groom, or their parents, must be regular attendees at the Sabbath Church of God.

Because the Sabbath Church of God believes that marriage is designed to be a life-long union, the Sabbath Church of God does not take part in remarriages except under the following circumstances:

Death – The former spouse is deceased (Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:39).

Marital Unfaithfulness – The former spouse committed adultery against the spouse seeking remarriage (Matt. 5: 32, 19:3-9).

Desertion – The spouse seeking remarriage was deserted by an unbelieving spouse (1 Cor. 7:15).