

CBS DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

The College of Biblical Studies appreciates and values God's gift of marriage between man and woman that God created in His own image. As a Bible College committed to providing our students with a biblical worldview, CBS fully believes what the Bible says about marriage and operates according to that faith commitment. We abide by Jesus's teaching on marriage when He said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'? "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate" (Matthew 19:4b-6 NASB, capitalization in the original).

The definition of marriage provided by Jesus includes several important truths that CBS expects all board members, faculty members, students and staff to value and abide by:

1. Marriage is a covenant designed by God (19:4b).
2. This biblical definition of marriage is not conditioned by culture or personal perspective but decided by God from the beginning and expected to continue until eternity (v. 4b).
3. Marriage is intended to be between one man and one woman as God biologically created them male and female at birth (v. 4b). Hence, any other proposals for marriage are outside of God's intended design (see also Leviticus 18:22, 20:13–16; Romans 1:26–27; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; and 1 Timothy 1:9–10).
4. The marriage covenant is sealed through sexual intercourse which should be reserved for one husband and one wife after they have entered the holy covenant of marriage (v. 5).
5. God's design is for marriage to last until the death of one of the spouses (v. 6 and Matthew 22:30).

Therefore, the College of Biblical Studies defines marriage as a divinely designed biblical covenant between one man and one woman and God that is intended to represent the relationship of Christ and the Church, and last until the death of either spouse. This view of marriage is affirmed in the Old Testament as well as the New Testament (see Genesis 1:27, 2:23–24; Malachi 2:14; Song of Solomon 2:7, 16; 1 Corinthians 7:1–16; Ephesians 5:22–33; Hebrews 13:4).