



# WEDDING MINISTRY

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*The voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom  
and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who will say:*

*“Praise the Lord of hosts, For the Lord is good,  
For His mercy endures forever...”*

*Jeremiah 33:11*



# INTRODUCTION TO THE CCSB MARRIAGE MINISTRY

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Life is filled with decisions—some are simple, others are complex. Some are for a moment in time, others are permanent and life-altering. Some are frivolous or fun, while others are serious and monumental. Some are God’s perfect plan, others are anything but that. Here at Calvary Chapel South Bay (CCSB), it is our desire that first and foremost, all couples thinking of marriage do so from God’s perspective and to fulfill His perfect will for their lives. With that perspective in view, marriage is a covenant that one man and one woman make before God, witnessed by their guests in which they mutually pledge their lives to each other for the remainder of their time here on this earth. The marriage covenant is complex, permanent, life-altering, serious and monumental. The believer’s decision to marry is second only in magnitude to our individual decision to receive God’s gracious gift of salvation in His son Jesus Christ. Because God views marriage as an irrevocable covenant and the vows taken in marriage are taken before God, we here at CCSB believe that marriage is not only to be prayerfully, thoughtfully and completely considered from a biblical view, but can only be performed by us when both the man and the woman are believers in Jesus Christ. We believe that each and every part of the marriage ceremony from the mandatory premarital sessions, the exchanging of vows, candle lighting, exchanging of rings, the message during the service, the atmosphere of the service and even the attire of the wedding party, should speak of the sanctity of marriage, the holiness of God and the permanence of the commitment the couple is making to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in their own personal lives, as well as the lives of the family they will become.

To this glorious end, we pray that your wedding will be simply the beginning of the most wonderful years of your lives as you seek to fulfill God’s perfect will for your lives. As when He designed marriage and presided over the very first one in the garden, may you be each other’s wonderful completion and would the new family you start bring you immeasurable joy, magnificent peace and abounding love.

In The Matchless Name of Jesus,

Pastor Jeff Gill and the staff of Calvary Chapel South Bay

# RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF CALVARY CHAPEL SOUTH BAY

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WHEREAS, this board is aware of the need to define the conditions whereby this body performs marriage ceremonies in light of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on Friday, June 24, 2015 in a 5 to 4 decision that “same-sex marriage” is a constitutional right on the basis of the Court majority’s interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment, and the potential that decision has to ultimately force churches to perform weddings contrary to our Constitutional First Amendment freedoms of religion, assembly and association, as well as the Biblical definition to which we hold, be it

RESOLVED, that Calvary Chapel South Bay does hereby act by a unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees on, June 29, 2015, that Calvary Chapel South Bay (CCSB) shall not perform marriages between parties other than those who meet the Biblical criteria for marriage as defined by Scripture as we understand it. The words “ Biblical and Scripture” are hereby defined and understood to mean the entire Old and New Testament, New King James Bible 2nd edition, Thomas Nelson Publishers. Be it further

RESOLVED, that all weddings performed here at Calvary Chapel South Bay are considered a worship service and are to be conducted as such with attention to the Biblical definition of marriage at the center of said services. Be it further

RESOLVED, that all church facilities, furniture and equipment are to be considered implements for worship services and are not to be rented, loaned or otherwise used for any purpose that does not meet the published mission statement of the church—W.I.S.E., to Win, Instruct, Send and Encourage, and the expressed Biblical basis for such a statement. Be it further

RESOLVED, that couples seeking to be married at CCSB must complete six weeks of Biblical premarital sessions, using “God’s Design for Marriage,” written by Pastor Jeff Gill, and be in fellowship at CCSB. Both parties must be believers in Jesus Christ as defined by Scripture, so as to not be unequally yoked together, as well as believe all the basic tenants of the Christian faith according to our published “Statement of Faith” which is on [ccsouthbay.org/beliefs](http://ccsouthbay.org/beliefs). They must meet the criteria for God’s definition of a married couple as defined in Genesis Chapter 2, which is clearly only between one man and one woman, for life. Be it further

RESOLVED, that Calvary Chapel South Bay reserves the right to exercise its discretion, to perform marriages based solely on our understanding of Biblical knowledge, and thereby the limitations and definitions that the Scriptures place upon the marriage relationship, and thereby shall not for any reason be forced to perform marriage ceremonies that fall outside of that understanding, included in, but not limited to, excluding, performing marriages between couples that are deemed, to be living in open sin as defined by the Holy Scriptures, at a minimum, specifically referring to the following passages of Scripture:1 Corinthians 6:7–11, Romans 1:18–32 and Galatians 5:19–21. Be it further

RESOLVED, that the Senior Pastor shall be granted full and final authority, at his discretion, to approve or disapprove of all inquiries as to the suitability of any and all couples seeking marriage ceremonies to be performed by all pastors within this ministry. Be it further

RESOLVED, that couples failing to meet the above criteria shall not be considered for marriage by any pastoral staff of Calvary Chapel South Bay effective the date of this resolution. Additionally, be it understood that this written resolution has been our unwritten practice and principle since the founding of this ministry.

THEREFORE, this Resolution stands in full force and effect until revoked by and action according to the bylaws of Calvary Chapel South Bay.

Date: June 29, 2015



# REQUIREMENTS

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Our desire for you is that the entire wedding event would flow smoothly with everything in place and in order. Thorough preparation can help ensure that your day will be beautiful and joyous. The following requirements are mandatory in order to have a CCSB pastor officiate your wedding ceremony—

- ✱ Complete Introductory Interview
- ✱ Complete the Premarital Sessions
- ✱ Pass the Dress Review – Bride’s gown and bridal party gowns
- ✱ Obtain a State of California Marriage License

**Renewals:** For those who wish to renew their vows, the same requirements are mandatory except for the premarital sessions and a marriage license. A minimum of two months is necessary to complete the requirements.

## PASTOR /DATE AVAILABILITY

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**Choose a pastor:** Once you have passed the Introductory Interview, you may select the pastor of your choice from CCSB. Depending upon his availability, he will conduct the premarital sessions as well as your wedding ceremony. **Pastors are only available from Monday through Saturday.**

**Pastors are not available to conduct ceremonies on these days:**

- ✱ Main events such as Harvest Fest, Easter weekend, etc.
- ✱ Calendar Holidays
- ✱ Sundays due to church service duties
- ✱ Pastor is on vacation

**Choose a date:** When you have completed the second premarital session with the pastor, a tentative wedding date may be submitted or reconfirmed by the Wedding Coordinator. Your wedding date will not be finalized until the dress review has been approved.

# WEDDING ATTIRE

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As the process of finding the “perfect” bridal gown and bridal party dresses soon begins, the attire you select should be made with modesty in mind (1 Timothy 2:9,10), that it may bring honor to the Lord. The attire must be reviewed by the Wedding Coordinator. If you have already purchased your dress and/or the bridal party gowns and it does not meet our guidelines, please speak to the Wedding Coordinator as soon as possible.

## ***What is an acceptable dress?***

- ❖ Neckline of all dresses should be above the cleavage area
- ❖ Length of all dresses should be at the knees or longer
- ❖ Back of any dress should completely cover the average brassiere line

## ***What is an unacceptable dress?***

- ❖ Bare midriff/cleavage or plunging neckline
- ❖ Sheer dress
- ❖ Laced-up back with no blinder or a backless dress
- ❖ Slits on the dress passing above the knee
- ❖ Miniskirts



# INTERVIEW & SESSION

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We provide a premarital instruction program that will prepare all couples who wish to get married with a strong biblical foundation. You will meet with a pastor, study God's will for marriage, and have the opportunity to discuss important topics such as communication, conflict resolution, finances, and the roles and responsibilities of spouses.

Your time and dedication is needed to complete the required sessions. We believe that the life-long commitment you are about to make is one that merits such effort in your future as a married couple.



**Interview:** The Introductory Interview is intended to help the couple understand the requirements set forth by CCSB for wedding ceremonies performed by our pastors, either on-site or off-site. In addition, the interview will assist in clarifying any questions or concerns where you stand in your spiritual walk as a couple and as individuals.

**Sessions:** Couples must complete six sessions of biblical premarital counseling before their wedding date. Both of you will need to meet with the pastor at least every two to three weeks, upon the pastor's availability. You and your future spouse will be given individual workbooks, "God's Design for Marriage" written by our Senior Pastor Jeff Gill. We will gladly provide these workbooks at no cost. Although, there is no cost for the sessions, it is important that you complete your sessions as it is required.





# WEDDING COORDINATOR

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The Wedding Coordinator is instrumental in the success of the wedding ceremony. She can eliminate many of the pressures associated with planning a wedding. You may be in frequent contact with her over the course of your wedding preparation. Your Wedding Coordinator is here to keep you on track and serve you in all aspects of your wedding arrangements by—

- ❖ Scheduling and monitoring your appointments with a pastor
- ❖ Working closely with you in planning your ceremony agenda
- ❖ Coordinating and assisting the rehearsal and ceremony

If you and your future spouse are interested in starting off your engagement on the right track, please call the Church Office at (310) 352-3333 for more information. Please ask for our Wedding Coordinator. A minimum of four months prior to a wedding date is necessary to complete the church requirements.

***Ceremony Locations:*** We have two locations for you to choose from for your wedding ceremony. Large or small, formal or informal, we would love to bless you by doing our very best to accommodate you and to please the Lord. If you would like a quick tour, please contact the Wedding Coordinator.

For reception information, please speak with the Wedding Coordinator.







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