



## **Creekside's Marrying Position Statement**

1. Marriage is a sacred covenant established by God to teach a man and woman to love each other with God's kind of love, for better or for worse, for a lifetime. Marriage is not a 50/50 proposition, but a 100% commitment of one person to the love and betterment of the other.
2. An authentic growing relationship with God through Jesus Christ provides a firm spiritual foundation that gives an individual guidance and power to better relate to a spouse and to grow in love and commitment for a lifetime.
3. Pre-marital preparation and early marriage support can make a significant difference in the long-term health and viability of a marriage. For this reason all couples married through Creekside must participate in premarital counseling and attend the church sponsored pre-marriage retreat.
4. Creekside will marry two professing Christians or two people who are not professing Christians with similar spiritual desires, but we cannot, in good conscience, marry a couple where only one is a professing Christian. This is based on our understanding of 2 Corinthians 6:14 (two people heading in different spiritual directions) and our experience with the tension created from a couple not sharing a common spiritual foundation and spiritual life direction. (There may be exceptions to this position, but they are rare. You are welcome to speak with your officiate about this.)
5. We believe that God's ideal for our sexuality is for it to be expressed in the monogamous exclusive commitment of marriage. Pre-marital sex often masks issues and keeps couples from learning emotional intimacy, friendship and communication independent of sexual intimacy. If a couple is dependent on a sexual relationship to be happy and content together before marriage, the more important foundations for a lasting marriage are often underdeveloped. For these reasons, we ask couples to honor God's expressed desire for their sexuality (Hebrews 13:4) and abstain from sexual intimacy, whether from the beginning of the relationship or from this moment on, until their marriage.
6. Creekside wants you to know if, for any reason, we do not perform your wedding ceremony, our desire as a church is to offer you the tools and resources you need to have a healthy, lasting marriage God intends for you.