

## **Jonesboro Chinese Baptist Church (JCBC) Marriage Policy**

God established marriage for His glory and He designed it for one man and one woman. We believe marriage is a blessing from God and should be treated with care. When two sinners are joined together in marriage, problems will arise due to sin. Therefore, marriage should be guided by biblical principles. Thus JCBC Marriage Policy was drafted to ensure our marriages are pleasing to God.

JCBC will officiate weddings under the following conditions:

I. The man and the woman wanting to marry have not been married in the past:

1. Both the man and woman are believers. A believer and unbeliever should not marry (I Cor. 7:39; 2 Cor. 6:14-15).

2. The couple is demonstrating moral purity in their relationship (i.e., they are not living together or engaging in sexual intimacy). If such purity is not present, a waiting period of six months is required within which moral purity must be maintained.

3. The couple has not been married in court already.

4. When a man and woman have been married in court, a JCBC pastor may perform a blessing ceremony at his discretion. All court marriages that follow Biblical principles are binding before God.

II. If either the man or the woman have been married in the past, a JCBC pastor can marry them if the above conditions are met as well as the following:

1. Remarriage is permitted where the former spouse(s) is deceased (Romans 7:2; I Cor. 7:39).

2. Remarriage is permitted when the former spouse(s) has remarried.

3. Remarriage may be permitted where a divorce occurred prior to conversion (II Cor. 5:17, 6:14).

4. Remarriage is permitted where a divorce has occurred on Biblical grounds: when an unbelieving spouse deserts the relationship, where the former spouse committed adultery, or where he/she was physically or mentally abusive. (Matthew 5:32; I Cor. 7:15)

Both parties should undergo marriage counseling prior to wedding by the JCBC pastor or his designee.

The pastor can proceed with discernment when handling any case not covered by this policy.

This policy may be amended as needed by the JCBC.

