

## Phillips Temple Church Marriage Statement

**Our goal as a Christian church is to inspire hope in God's people in areas of monogamous marital relationships between a man and a woman. Phillips Temple Church of Trotwood, Ohio will neither recognize, participate, host, or officiate any other form of union. Please acknowledge from the Holy Bible, Genesis 1:26a, 27 & 28a; 2:24 & 25 (ESV):**

- Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...."
- So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; *male* and *female* he created them....
- And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth...."
- Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his *wife*, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his *wife* were both naked and were not ashamed. (italics added)

**Moreover, our pastor and his associate ministers encourage anyone (who are faithful attenders of the Phillips Temple worship services) having a desire to get married at the church to follow certain premarital protocols:**

**1. Both the groom and bride must be born again Christians according to the Bible, please examine John 3:3, 16-19 & 36:**

Jesus answered [Nicodemus], "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their works were evil."

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."

**Acts 16:30-32:** Then [the jailer] brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And [Paul and Silas] said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

**Romans 10:8-10 & 13:** But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.... For "everyone who calls on the Lord will be saved."

**and 2 Corinthians 13:5:** Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

**2. In most instances the ministers of Phillips Temple Church will not marry non-believers, or a believer with a non-believer because the Scriptures teach the importance of spiritual intimacy and moral compatibility in marriage. We appreciate your observance of God's Word, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 & 13b-20; 7:1-2:**

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers ("wound with words," MacArthur), nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God....

...The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.

**2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1:**

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty." . . .*Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.* (Apostle Paul encourages responsibility and accountability; italics added)

**and Ephesians 5:22-24, 25-33:**

Wives, submit (selves) to your own husbands, as to the Lord. (The verb "submit," absent in Greek in v. 22, is borrowed from v. 21 ["...submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ"]; "as to the Lord," does not mean that a wife is to submit to her husband in the same way she submits to the Lord, but that her submission to her husband is her service rendered "to the Lord," cf. Col. 3:18, Hoehner, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*.) For the husband is the head (one who "takes hold of" [as a responsible person], *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*) of the wife even as Christ is the (one who takes hold of [as a responsible person]) of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior (Deliverer or Protector, *Strong's*). Now as the church submits (itself) to Christ, so also wives should submit (selves) in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives (Hoehner describes the word "love", Gr. *agapao*, means seeking the highest good for another person), as Christ loved (sought the highest good for) the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love (seek the highest good for) their wives as their own bodies. He who loves (seeks the highest good for) his wife loves (seeks the

highest good for) himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love (seek the highest good for) his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband (Gr. *phobeo*: to be in awe of, i.e. revere, show forth reverence, *Strong's*).

**3. Before proceeding in the marital process at the Phillips Temple Church, one must meet with one of our pastoral counselors for an initial premarital orientation. The orientation session strongly challenges the premarital couple not to cohabit (couples who are living together are asked to move apart) and not to be involved sexually (couples who are sexually intimate are asked to agree with the Living God and His Word to abstain from their sexual relationship until the wedding celebration). Please note the following verses: Proverbs 5:18-20:**

Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love. Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress?

**Song of Solomon 3:11:**

Go out, O daughters of Zion, and look upon King Solomon, with the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding, on the day of the gladness of his heart.

**Isaiah 62:5:**

For as a young man marries a young woman, ...and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you (Jerusalem); Martin, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*.

**1 Thessalonians 4:1-8:**

Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do as more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and

wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

**Hebrews 13:4, 7 & 17:**

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

...Remember your leaders, those spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

...Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

**and 1 John 1:7-9:**

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another (Gr. pronoun for "one another" *allelon* may refer to the two parties: God and the Christian, Hodges, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*), and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**4. After the wedding celebration, it is customary for a couple to be set up for a three-month marital checkup with their premarital counselor.**

**(Before and after the wedding, couples are encouraged to be involved in the life of Phillips Temple Church. Church life has a way of encouraging and strengthening the Christian family.)**

**We see the marital relationship as a lifetime commitment, that is, a sacred covenant made between God and the couple, and with each other:**

The LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. Did He not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union: And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth (Malachi 2:14-15). ..."So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined [or witnessed] together, let not man separate" (Matthew 19:6).