

*** GIVE THANKS ***

Thanksgiving Service

WELCOME

We warmly welcome you, if you are worshipping with us for the first time. We believe you've become a member of our church family by God's grace.

Please ensure you speak to the Pastor or one of today's facilitators before you leave.

May God bless you richly (Amen).

VERSE(S) OF THE DAY

And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

Genesis 2:18 (NKJV)

THEME FOR THE YEAR

Faith in action

(2 Thessalonians 1:11)

We're trusting God to enable us to do all the good things faith prompts in us in Jesus name (NLT).

DID YOU KNOW?

Every Sunday, we worship together at **Unit 13, Skylines Village**. When unable to attend, do visit our website or YouTube channel for recorded sessions.



Sunday 5 March 2023

WELCOME

Redeemed Christian Church of God

Bethel

WEEKLY SERVICES & MEETINGS

SUNDAY

Thanksgiving / Worship service
From 10am

FRIDAY

Prayer meeting / Bible study
From 7pm

RCCG Bethel Parish

Unit 13, Skylines Village

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A cord of three strands...

Two are better than one,
because they have a good
return for their labor:
If they fall down, they can help
each other up.
But pity those who fall and have
no one to help them up!
Also, if two lie down together,
they will keep warm.
But how can one keep warm alone?
Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.

... is not quickly broken.

www.heartlight.org

Ecclesiastes 4:12

Image source(s): <https://christianity.org.uk/article/a-christian-view-of-marriage//>
<https://biblicalproof.wordpress.com/2022/03/09/practice-what-you-preach/>

Our 'must-visit' website



Our website is a treasure trove of information, and not only about our focus and mission. You could subscribe to our podcast or listen to past sermons too (<http://rccgbethel.church/sermons/>). This is particularly useful for when you are unable to attend services or for refreshing your recollection as an essential part of your private Bible study.

There's more! Details of events and outreach will almost certainly be available from relevant pages on our website and updated regularly, along with downloadable copies of our Sunday bulletins (<http://rccgbethel.church/category/bulletins/>).

So, why don't you set our homepage as one of your **startup page(s)** in your browser now? The following instructions for most of the common browsers may help.

Google Chrome

1. Open the browser and the **Settings** menu (or the **three vertical dots** to the right of the menu bar).
2. Scroll down and click on **Advanced Settings**.
3. Select **Open a specific page or set of pages** under **On Startup**.
4. Select **Set pages** and enter or add <http://rccgbethel.church/>.

Mozilla Firefox

1. Open Firefox. Press **Alt-T** on the keyboard and select **Options** from the drop-down menu or go to **Tools >> Options** from the main menu.
2. In the **Home** section, select **Homepage and new windows** and **Custom URLs...** from the field's drop down.
3. Enter or paste the URL: <http://rccgbethel.church/> or click **Use Current Page** if you are already on our website.

Microsoft Edge

1. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar.
2. Select **Settings** and select **A Specific Page or Pages** from the **Open Microsoft Edge With** section drop down options.
3. Enter <http://rccgbethel.church/>. (Click the Plus sign to add more pages if required).
4. Click the **three horizontal dots** to the right of the top menu bar again to close **Settings** menu.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Should Christians support non-biblical views of marriage?

Text: 2 Timothy 2:19-23

What is marriage and the biblical view? If a Christian gets married in the courts and not in the church, we may all agree that does not mean they're not married. Thus, when we talk about marriage in most cases, we're referring to the court-ordained ceremony. In fact, most churches are not licensed to ordain marriages and in some traditional settings, paying the bride price is essential before a couple's considered married.

Some practices before and after Christ are frowned upon today (Matt 22:23-28). Once, when Jesus was challenged on a related issue by the Pharisees, he reduced the conundrum to a simple fact. Marriage is irrelevant in resurrection (Matt 22:29-32; Ecc 1:9-11). Although marriages are honoured by all, it and societies evolve (Heb 13:4), but God does not change, but we do (Psa 102:24-27; 2 Tim 2:19).

Therefore, it isn't our view or support that matters. It is God's. Paul reminded us that the Israelite ancestors were found wanting by God (1 Cor 10:1-5). A child getting married is frowned upon today, but maybe our question should be, does God change as our views or society change? Contrary to Jeremiah's belief, an Ethiopian or leopard may choose to say they're different (Jer 13:23), but God remains the same.

In Genesis 6:1-5, angels took wives for themselves on earth and gave birth to giants, but God saw their wickedness and evil. When God saw how advanced man had become, building an impressive city and tower, because they spoke in one voice (Gen 11:5-9), God stated that nothing will be beyond men, if left unchecked (Gen 11:7-9).

Jesus said **"iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold"** (Matt 24:12-14). Iniquity is defined as **"a violation of the right or duty that mankind is under obligation to do"**. Marriage as we know it today transcends the bible or the church. In most cases, it is between a man and a woman. However, it is also a legal contract licensed by each nation state and the state decides who we can marry, where and how.

No single framework for marriage was ever defined specifically in the bible and there are varying forms of marriages. Scriptures said God made man, male and female, in his own image (Gen 1:27) and what he's joined man inseparably together (Matt 19:6). It may be a controversial view, but we can infer in other words that whatever framework of marriage is in force, legislated by the courts or blessed by the church, it should be supported.

Bottom line:

We can choose to redefine anything because we can. Let's remember God doesn't change and we can only support what God asks of us (2 Thes 2:2-12; Matt 24:12-14).

RCCG Bethel Parish
The pillar of truth, defining the future today