

WHEATON BIBLE CHURCH

Wedding Guide



Dear Engaged Couple,

Congratulations on your engagement and upcoming wedding! Next to receiving Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, choosing your mate for life is the most important decision you will make. We believe that marriage is a gift from the Lord and we celebrate with you as you prepare for your wedding day. As with all His good gifts to us, the gift of marriage is one of the ways God puts His greatness on display for the world to see (James 1:17; Matthew 5:14–16).

Whether we are providing a venue for your wedding, a pastor for a wedding outside our church, or both a venue and a pastor to officiate at your ceremony, this guide will walk you through that process. Our desire is not only that you will have a great wedding day but also that we will help you start your marriage off right, in a way that brings God glory and draws the world to Him. We are here to assist and encourage you as you seek to do this. Feel free to ask us any questions that you have.

We invite you to look at the table of contents to see which sections of this guide apply to you.

May God continue to draw you into closer relationship with Him and with each other as you move toward this great day of celebration, when you will come together as husband and wife.

Blessings,



Mark Irvin



Becky Anderson

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Section One

SO YOU'VE DECIDED TO GET MARRIED



God's Intent for Marriage

You've met this wonderful person, and you want to get married. Where have you learned about marriage? From your family? Our culture? TV sitcoms? Why have you decided to get married? Perhaps the first thing that comes to mind is that he or she makes you so happy. While that is great, and God wants us to enjoy life, we believe God wants more for our marriages. To understand more, we turn to the Bible. How do we live out marriage God's way? Here are six things we believe the Bible teaches about marriage and the reasons to marry:

1. God created man and woman as unique creatures.

In Genesis chapter 1 we read the story of creation. On the fifth day, God made the other creatures and everything else in creation "and saw that it was good." On the sixth day, He made man and woman, after His own image, and in Genesis 1:31, God declared His creation to be "very good." We are unique in creation; we are created to live in relationship with God. This applies to you. The problem is that you and I are naturally selfish people and want life to revolve around us. God wants a relationship with us so much that He became one of us and came to earth in the person of Jesus. As the only perfect person who ever lived, Jesus paid the penalty for what you and I have done wrong, so you and I can live in relationship with Him if we accept that payment. Not only are you uniquely made to live in relationship with Him, you also are made to be God's agents to rule over His creation (Genesis 1:28).

2. God's definition of marriage is one man with one woman.

Genesis chapter 2 provides a deeper view of what went on during this time of creation. Here we read that "the Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.'" It is clear that we are not meant to do life alone. God has hardwired in each of us the desire to be in significant relationships. He wants our most important relationship to be with Him, but our second most important relationship will be with our spouse. Genesis 2:24 builds on this: "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh." We believe this first marriage established God's definition of marriage. God could have created another man, but He didn't. He made one man and one woman to fulfill this most vital role of supporting each other as they walk through life together. You are about to sign up to be your future spouse's helpmate.

3. Marriage is for life.

It is important to note that God created a woman to be Adam's partner for life. This is a covenant relationship, for life. If we take two boards and firmly glue them together, they are stronger than either board is individually. They cannot ever again be pulled apart into the original two boards. Any attempts to do so will damage both boards significantly. Speaking of marriage, Jesus echoes the importance of this oneness in Matthew 19:6 and adds, "therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." When a couple gets married, they enter into an unconditional marriage covenant that should be broken only by death. This is an important step in your life. Make sure you enter into it knowing that you are making a lifelong commitment.

4. God calls married couples to "Be fruitful and fill the earth."

In addition to becoming one, in Genesis 1:28 God charged Adam and Eve with being fruitful and filling the earth. A part of what God sets up for marriage is having children and creating a legacy. This command was given to Adam and Eve before the Fall and continued after the Fall. But God does

not simply want us to have children. He wants us to leave a legacy of walking with Him and charges parents to disciple their kids. In Deuteronomy 6:7, He tells parents to, “impress them [His commands] on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” God desires that as we marry, we set Him as our foundation for having a family. If He blesses us with children, He wants us to teach those children how to have a relationship with Him. The New Testament makes it clear that the foundation of this relationship is believing in and accepting that Christ paid the penalty for our sins.

5. Marriage is a model of Christ and His Church.

While there are many additional statements in the Old Testament about how to do marriage well, especially in Proverbs and Song of Songs, one of the most revealing passages on marriage is found in Ephesians 5:22–33. Here Paul commands a husband to love his wife as Christ loves the Church. Marriage is a parable, or a living analogy, of Christ’s love for His bride, the Church. There are many parallels given in Scripture. For example, Christ gave Himself for His Church and a husband is to lay down his life for his wife. In Ephesians 5:26 we read that our marriages are designed to be holy (as in unique and uncommon), just as Christ’s relationship with His Church is holy. We can accomplish this only when Christ and His love live through us.

You started talking about getting married because someone makes you happy. Author and speaker Gary Thomas says in *A Sacred Marriage*, “What if marriage is more about making us holy than making us happy?” We believe that God wants our marriages to make us both holy and happy. We believe that every marriage is meant to be enjoyable, fulfilling, and energizing. This changes how we look at marriage. It becomes a tool in God’s hand to make us more like Jesus and to energize us to advance His Kingdom.

6. Called to be Witnesses of God’s Love

As a married couple, you are called to be witnesses to an unbelieving world. For those you know who are already married, a believing spouse is called to be a witness to an unbelieving spouse (1 Peter 3:1; 1 Corinthians 7:13–14).

Christ paid the penalty for our sin by dying on the cross; this is the Good News of the Bible. We have to individually receive that free gift of His payment for our sins and choose to live our lives dependent on His power. God’s love and character are on display in a godly spouse and in a godly marriage for unbelieving neighbors, friends, family, and coworkers to see!

In summary, we believe the Gospel is the only hope for building marriages that are not about us. Hollywood and culture have tried to come up with an alternative approach, and it has not proven to work. By our very nature we are selfish creatures who need to be saved from ourselves.

Although these thoughts are different from what our culture teaches, we hope they challenge you to do marriage God’s way. Only then will you experience the full joy and oneness that God desires for each of us in our marriages.

Doing Marriage God's Way

THE GOOD NEWS FOR MARRAIGE

If you are like most couples, there are many emotions swirling around you during this important time in your life. There is excitement about making a commitment to be with the person you love for the rest of your life. You may be feeling a little apprehension about what it will be like after you get married. We all know of marriages that seemed to start well but ended in divorce. It is easy to say, "That won't be us." Still, deep down, you may be feeling just a bit anxious about how to make sure your love continues for a lifetime. There is really Good News about dealing with that anxiousness. That Good News comes in the form of a Person, whose name is Jesus. He came to earth and battled through every emotion we experience, even being rejected by those close to Him. Yet He lived a life that was poured out for others, ultimately sacrificing Himself for us on the Cross.

Only through a relationship with Him, and through seeing our lives through His eyes, can we truly understand what marriage is to be. It is about so much more than personal happiness. Jesus gives us an opportunity to serve the one we love with the same sacrificial love that He offers us. We need to embrace Christ's help and learn what it means to give ourselves to another and to live for them. As pastor and author Tim Keller says, "Marriage is glorious but hard. It's a burning joy and strength, and yet it is also blood, sweat, and tears, humbling defeats and exhausting victories." We share this not to discourage you but to remind you that as with all things in life, there will be both joys and challenges. Believers in Christ do not walk this road alone but with God, who gives them what they need along the way. He has established the Church to be a place where we can live in community and support each other in this journey. God desires that we come as we are but that we do not stay that way. He desires that we continue to allow Him to transform us each day. He wants to use your marriage as both a source of transformation and great joy as you grow in your love of God and each other.

The other good news about marriage contradicts the overly pessimistic picture of the institution of marriage that popular culture has painted. You may have heard that half of all marriages end in divorce. The reality is that divorce rates are much lower than that. Somewhere between one out of four and one out of five marriages actually end in divorce. The other reality is that in 70 to 80 percent of marriages, both the husband and the wife are reporting they are happy, with a third of those couples identifying themselves as being very happy. The other piece of good news is that couples that attend church regularly have even a better chance of staying together for life. We want you to be encouraged that you can have a marriage that is enjoyable, fulfilling, and energizing.

Preparing for Your New Life Together

As you prepare for your new life together, we strongly encourage you to take the following steps:

GET INVOLVED IN BIBLICAL COMMUNITY

This is an important time of your life to be growing in your faith individually and in community as you prepare to come together as a couple through marriage (Hebrews 10:24–25; Proverbs 12:15; 13:10; 15:22; 19:20). Wheaton Bible Church provides many opportunities for you to get connected beyond attending weekly Sunday-morning worship services. Visit wheatonbible.org and click on “Get Involved” to learn more.

PARTICIPATE IN THE PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE WORKSHOP

The process of becoming one happens when you stand before God and your family and friends and present your vows to each other. The process of living as one in a covenant relationship takes some practice and we want to provide you with the tools to get started. For this reason, as you are making plans for your big day, **we ask that you participate in this eight-week class, offered in the fall and spring.**

Topics include marriage God’s way, finances, communication, sex/family planning, roles in marriage, the mission of your marriage, and forgiveness. Various WBC pastors and leaders join us as we address these subjects through large-group teaching and small-group discussion with “marriage mentor” couples who will help you apply the material you are learning. **(NOTE: For those getting married at WBC or by a WBC pastor, this class is required.)** The cost is \$70. If you are not able to meet this requirement (e.g., you are away at school) during the fall and spring, we can talk about alternative options. Contact Becky Anderson, banderson@wheatonbible.org, 630.876.6602.

Why is it important to be at the same place spiritually?

WHAT IF I AM A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST BUT THE PERSON I AM MARRYING IS NOT?

As followers and disciples of Jesus and as His local church, we believe it is important to live out what God says in His Word, the Bible. We believe that God gave us the Bible to help us know how to live rightly with Him and with one another. As we have seen, God tells us that He created marriage to reflect the love that Jesus has for His people, the church (Ephesians 5:22–23).

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul gives us some guidelines as we consider the person we are to marry in 2 Corinthians 6:14–15—verses that form the framework for understanding what the pastoral staff at Wheaton Bible Church believes about what it means to be “on the same page” spiritually. These verses teach that God does not permit us to perform a wedding ceremony during which someone who is a Christ follower is married to someone who is not. This is not a matter of judging the person who is not following Christ, but rather a matter of setting every marriage up for success according to what Scripture teaches. If one person is a Christ follower and the other one is not, that couple will not share the common objective of growing in Christ, and living their lives for Him. Also, if God blesses the couple with children, they will not be united in how to bring up their children in a manner that leads the children to embrace a saving faith in Jesus Christ.

We understand that while we may not have the liberty to marry a couple in this situation, each couple will determine what they will do. For couples who choose to get married somewhere else, we will seek to encourage and build up their marriage in any way we can after their wedding.

It is important to note that this passage does not say anything about the uniting together of a couple when neither one is following Christ. We wholeheartedly support the institution of marriage and believe that it has been ordained since Creation. We believe that the Church is to speak truth into the lives of people who are exploring the Good News found in the Bible but may not have come to a place where they are ready to personally accept Christ’s work on the Cross. In these situations, for WBC pastors who choose to do so, it is perfectly permissible to officiate at these weddings.

We encourage couples in this situation to continue to explore the Gospel, and for that purpose, we highly recommend the Alpha course, which is offered several times a year at Wheaton Bible Church and elsewhere. Couples are also strongly encouraged to find their place within the community of our church.

Ultimately, our desire is to see every person embrace a life-changing relationship with Jesus through faith in His saving work on the Cross. We firmly believe that in that relationship we become the people God created us to be, and that is where we can have the enjoyable and fulfilling marriages He desires for us.

What if we are currently living together or having sex?

It is common today for couples to live together before they get married. They choose to do so for a number of reasons. Many feel this will give them an experience of what marriage will be like before they actually take that step. Others have observed too many failed relationships among family and friends and want to do everything they can to be sure this one will work before making any vows before God, family, and friends. How one thinks about sex is directly related to how one thinks about God and the world.

For example, if I believe there is a God who created me, it makes sense that He might have a thing or two to say about how I have sex. After all, He created sex. God designed sex to fulfill certain roles in my life. Our deepest longing is to be fully known and still fully loved. God put this desire in place so that a husband and wife would bond in a way that is both supernatural and physical. Sex outside of marriage is devoid of the level of commitment and intimacy that God intended. As a church, we believe that the Bible is God's inspired revelation to us. Therefore, we must hold to what it teaches on this important topic of sex and living together before marriage. So what does it tell us?

1. Marriage and sex were God's idea from the beginning, and sex is to be reserved for those in the covenant relationship of marriage (Genesis 2:18–25; 1 Corinthians 7:1–5). The biblical picture of marriage is a formal commitment before family and friends, a permanent commitment to live together as a married couple until death separates you (Matthew 19:5–6).
2. God designed sex to be an emotional and relational experience that unifies a married couple "as the two shall become one." The vows you share on your wedding day and the nature of the covenant relationship is what makes sex what God intended it to be, intimate and loving, an expression of care and safety, and a life-giving experience. God doesn't see sex as casual but as a beautiful picture of the love He has for us and the love a married couple has for each other. It is for this reason that we must embrace a biblical, or high view of sex: that it is to be reserved for marriage so we can experience all that God intended.
3. God instructs us to not have sex outside of marriage (Acts 15:20, 29; 1 Corinthians 6:13, 18). The Bible gives us His Word on this matter because He created us as sexual beings and knows what is best for us. He knows what will set us up for a marriage that honors Him and the person we one day marry. Sex is never just about pleasure. It is always about pleasure and something else. It is always about pleasure and obedience. I have to decide if I am going to set myself up as my own rule maker or submit to God's authority and His law.
4. Marriage is to be held with honor, and those married are to remain faithful (Hebrews 13:4). Striving for purity before marriage will help you honor this commitment in marriage.
5. As believers we are called to flee sexual immorality (Acts 15:29; 1 Corinthians 6:18; Ephesians 5:3). Living in the same house will make sexual temptation only that much stronger.

God's Word is our foundational guide on this topic, but social statistics only serve to reinforce what God tells us. Young couples believe that living together before they get married will decrease the incidence of marital problems and divorce, but actually the research shows something different:

- ▶ The rate of divorce among those who live together before marriage is actually higher than those who do not live together. Since those living together see this as a trial run for marriage, they go into it with the mind-set that if it doesn't work, there is an out. Unfortunately, that same thought process carries into their marriage and leads to the higher rate of divorce.
- ▶ Those living together before marriage actually see a higher level of negative communication.
- ▶ There is a greater level of marital dissatisfaction after marriage for those who live together before getting married.
- ▶ The infidelity rate in marriage is higher among those who live together before marriage.

Not surprisingly, our church is serious about the Bible. We are also serious about doing our best to come alongside you as you take this important step. As a result, we are committed to helping you maintain God's standard for purity before marriage. If you are currently living together or have thoughts about doing so, you will be asked to live separately (separate homes) from this point until your wedding day. We encourage you to find a living situation that gives you the best chance for purity and fleeing temptation. It is our experience that couples who seek to honor God in this matter experience greater oneness, joy, and peace once they are married.

What if one or both of us have been divorced?

How does God see marriage, divorce, and remarriage? From the very beginning of creation, the Bible is clear that marriage is a big deal to God when He declares that in marriage two “become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24). In the New Testament, Jesus reiterates this when He says, “What God has joined together, let no one separate” (Matthew 19:6). God’s intent for marriage is a lifelong commitment that is not easily severed. To take this one step further, Jesus says, “I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery” (Matthew 5:32). In this passage, Jesus states that the one cause for divorce is adultery—sexual immorality on the part of a spouse. Remarriage under any other circumstance, He says, would itself be considered adultery.

Paul offers another situation in 1 Corinthians 7:15. He tells the church that if an unbelieving spouse decides he or she wants out of a marriage, the believing spouse is no longer bound by the marriage.

With this biblical context and our desire to follow the guidelines set before us by God in the Scriptures, we would invite our pastors to perform the ceremony and/or a couple can use the WBC facilities to remarry divorced parties under the following conditions:

- ▶ The pastor performing the ceremony has explored matters to determine if biblical grounds existed for the divorce. These would include sexual immorality (Matthew 19:9) or abandonment by a spouse; the other person simply walked away from the marriage (1 Corinthians 7:15).
- ▶ There may also have been abuse in the marriage. While the Bible does not speak directly to this situation, there are those that consider sexual (of the wife or children) or physical abuse to be abandonment of marital vows. A pastor is free to use this clause only after consulting with additional pastors and talking through the context of the abuse. This will determine if remarriage can be blessed by the church. Some of the context would include -
 - There was sexual or physical abuse in the first marriage, the offending party was unrepentant, and the abuse happened more than once. The victim has received counseling and is working through the emotional harm done.
 - The offending party has shown no repentance.
 - Adequate time has passed for healing.
 - Counseling has produced the fruit of forgiveness.
 - If biblical grounds for the prior divorce do not exist, the pastor will explore whether there is a potential for reconciliation. Both as a church and individually, we are called to the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:16–20). A believer who is divorced has a unique role in this with his or her ex-spouse. If the prior spouse has remarried, marriage restoration is not an option, and the prior marriage is irreparably severed (Deuteronomy 24:1–4).

We would also explore with the person involved if there has been a spirit of repentance for that person’s own role in the divorce. Divorce without biblical grounds is sin, and like any other sin, it requires repentance. It is not our intent to make divorce the unpardonable sin. If there is no opportunity for reconciliation (prior spouse has remarried or is unwilling to engage in any discussion over a period of time), and the party has demonstrated godly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:10) and repentance, we will be free to encourage a remarriage to be performed. This allowance does not require a pastor who does not feel freedom to perform such a marriage to do so.

As with all marriages performed at Wheaton Bible Church or by a WBC pastor, we will require the couple being remarried to participate in our Preparation for Marriage class. In cases of remarriage, we will ask couples to meet with one of our “remarriage” mentors for an additional session.

NOTE: Some explanations in this document have been described in a general manner. Our purpose is to provide an approach that is more descriptive than prescriptive, allowing individual pastors to exercise their own interpretation where Scripture does not dictate a specific approach. As in all things, it is our desire that each instance be prayerfully brought before the Lord for His wisdom, for discernment, and for direction.

Recommended Reading

In addition to attending the Preparation for Marriage Workshop, we encourage you to consider reading through additional resources to further prepare you for your life together. Try reading a chapter a week from a book on marriage and discussing it together. This will help you keep your focus on growing your relationship even while you plan all the details for your wedding. We suggest you start with the following:

The Scriptures

- Genesis 2:18–24
- Proverbs 5 and following
- Song of Songs
- 1 Corinthians 13
- Ephesians 5
- 1 Peter 3

Closer: 52 Devotions to Draw Couples Together

by Jim Burns and Kathy Burns

When Sinners Say “I Do”

by Dave Harvey

Ready to Wed

by Greg and Erin Smalloy (provided as part of the Preparation for Marriage class)

The Sacred Search: What If It's Not about Who You Marry, But Why?

by Gary Thomas

Before You Get Engaged

by Dr. David Gudel and Brent Gudel

Things I Wish I'd Known Before We Got Married

by Gary Chapman

OTHER RESOURCES (BY TOPIC)

MARRIAGE

The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God

by Timothy with Kathy Keller

You and Me Forever: Marriage in Light of Eternity

by Francis Chan and Lisa Chan

This Momentary Marriage: A Parable of Permanence

by John Piper and Noël Piper

The Mingling of Souls: God's Design for Love, Marriage, Sex, and Redemption

by Matt Chandler

SPIRITUAL INTIMACY

Sacred Marriage

by Gary Thomas

Devotions for a Sacred Marriage: A Year of Weekly Devotions for Couples

by Gary Thomas

COMMUNICATION

Anger: Handling a Powerful Emotion in a Healthy Way
by Gary Chapman

A Lasting Promise: A Christian Guide to Fighting for Your Marriage
by Scott Stanley, Daniel Trathen, Savanna McCain, and Milt Bryan

*Now You're Speaking My Language:
Honest Communication and Deeper Intimacy for a Stronger Marriage*
by Dr. Gary Chapman

When Sorry Isn't Enough: Making Things Right with Those You Love
by Gary Chapman

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SPOUSE/ROLES

The 5 Love Languages: The Secret to Love That Lasts
by Gary Chapman

For Men Only: A Straightforward Guide to the Inner Lives of Women
by Shaunti Feldhahn and Jeff Feldhahn

For Women Only: What You Need to Know about the Inner Lives of Men
by Shaunti Feldhahn

His Needs, Her Needs: Building an Affair-Proof Marriage
by Willard Harley

Love & Respect: The Love She Most Desires, The Respect He Desperately Needs
by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

Cherish: The One Word that Changes Everything for your Marriage
by Gary Thomas

MONEY

Money, Possessions, and Eternity
by Randy Alcorn

Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream
by David Platt

The Total Money Makeover: A Proven Plan for Financial Fitness
by Dave Ramsey

Financial Peace University (nine-week class offered at WBC)

SEX (Recommended for after the wedding.)

Sheet Music: Uncovering the Secrets of Sexual Intimacy in Marriage
by Dr. Kevin Leman

The Gift of Sex: A Guide to Sexual Fulfillment
by Clifford and Joyce Penner

Intimate Issues: 21 Questions Christian Women Ask about Sex
by Linda Dillow and Lorraine Pintus

Sex and Money: Pleasures that Leave you Empty and Grace that Satisfies
by Paul David Tripp

SO YOU'VE DECIDED TO GET MARRIED

REMARRIAGE AND BLENDING FAMILIES

The Remarriage Checkup: Tools to Help Your Marriage Last a Lifetime

by Ron L. Deal and David H. Olson

The Smart Step-Family: Seven Steps to a Healthy Family

by Ron L. Deal

The Smart Step-Family Marriage: Keys to Success in the Blended Family

by Ron L. Deal

SUPPORT AND CARE

The Wounded Heart: Hope for Adult Victims of Childhood Sexual Abuse

by Dan Allender

Every Man's Battle: Winning the War on Sexual Temptation One Victory at a Time

by Steven Arterburn

Every Woman's Battle: Discovering God's Plan for Sexual and Emotional Fulfillment

by Sharon Ethridge

Section Two

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING



Planning Your Wedding

When it comes to planning your wedding, we know it seems like there are a thousand details that need your attention. In the midst of all those details—along with helping you prepare for your life together—the Marriage Ministry of Wheaton Bible Church would like to help you with three decisions you will soon confront:

- ▶ *Where* you'll get married,
- ▶ *Who* will perform the ceremony (your "officiant"), and
- ▶ *What* elements will be included in your ceremony.

This section of the WBC Wedding Guide is designed to help you get started.

WHERE TO GET MARRIED

Let's start with where to get married. There are many places you can choose to hold your wedding ceremony and reception. We invite you to consider Wheaton Bible Church as one of those options and welcome the opportunity to explore this with you.

Since cost is an important consideration for many brides and grooms, the following overview of rental fees for a wedding at Wheaton Bible Church might be helpful to you.

Note that WBC facilities are available to members and regular attenders (of at least six months) as well as to immediate family (defined as children, grandchildren, brothers or sisters) of members or regular attenders. Additional considerations may be made for those who participate in the Preparation for Marriage class. Wedding space is available for Friday night or Saturday weddings only, and availability may be limited during holiday seasons.

CEREMONY SPACES		
East Worship Center	Seats 500	\$750 per event
Chapel	Seats 120	\$550 per event
RECEPTION SPACES		
Fellowship Center (Gym)	Up to 32 large round tables (8 per table) accommodating 256 people, includes space for buffet/beverage tables.	\$600 per day
Lower 50/52	Up to 6 large round tables, accommodating 50 people.	\$100 (half the room)
	Up to 12 large round tables, accommodating 100 people.	\$200 (whole room)
Kitchen		\$75 per day
Reception Coordinator	required for receptions at WBC	\$225

DEPOSIT AND FEE PAYMENT

A nonrefundable deposit of \$150 is required to secure the wedding date and room requested. A detailed summary of what is included in planning a wedding at WBC can be found in section 3.

NOTE: The first step in seeing if WBC is available is to complete a Wedding Inquiry Request Form at wheatonbible.org/Weddings. (The form is also available in Appendix on page 53.)

Choosing A Pastor/Officiant

We encourage you to select a pastor with whom you have a personal relationship to officiate at your wedding. There is a list below of WBC pastors available to officiate at weddings. They are generally willing to officiate both at WBC or locally offsite. If you need assistance, please contact Becky Anderson at 630.876.6602, who can offer some suggestions.

To complete the process, each of you (bride-to-be and groom-to-be) will be asked to complete a Wedding Application found online at wheatonbible.org/Weddings or in the Appendix, pages 55 and 57.

WHEATON BIBLE CHURCH PASTORS

Bill Brown, Pastor of Support Groups & Care
630.876.6686, bbrown@wheatonbible.org

Chris McElwee, Executive Pastor of Ministry
630.876.6624, cmcelwee@wheatonbible.org

Mike Herrera, Junion High Pastor
630.876.6660, mherrera@wheatonbible.org

David Moran, High School Pastor
630.876.6638, dmoran@iglesiadelpueblo.net

Mark Irvin, Pastor of Community Life
630.876.6672, mirvin@wheatonbible.org

Bill Oberlin, Pastor of Global Outreach
630.876.6649, boberlin@wheatonbible.org

Chad Lowe, Associate Pastor
630.876.6615, clowe@trivillagechurch.org

Kyle Reschke, Pastor of Sending and Outreach
630.876.6698, kreschke@wheatonbible.org

Carlos Ludeña, Pastor of Mission and Family
630.876.6614, cludeña@iglesiadelpueblo.net

Phil Shields, Pastor of Life Groups
630.876.6643, pshields@wheatonbible.org

Sergio Villanueva, Worship Pastor
630.876.6644, svillanueva@iglesiadelpueblo.net

OFFICIATING PASTOR'S FEE

WBC does not have a set fee for the officiating pastor, and there is no fee allocated in the cost of the facility for the pastor. We recommend an honorarium of between \$150 and \$300. You should consult with the pastor you have chosen for his requested honorarium. If your wedding requires the pastor to travel some distance, you should discuss with the pastor how travel expenses will be covered.

Next Steps

Depending on *where* you choose to be married or *who* you select as your officiant, we've created some first steps to help you through the process as it relates to Wheaton Bible Church.

GETTING MARRIED OFFSITE BY A WBC PASTOR?

If you are getting married offsite, we request that you still fill in the *Wedding Application* forms. (NOTE: Just skip the sections asking what rooms you would like to request.) We will then work with the pastor requested to approve your wedding.

You will want to use the *Planning Checklist for Those Being Married Offsite* by a WBC Pastor which is located on page 49 in the Appendix.

GETTING MARRIED AT WHEATON BIBLE CHURCH?

See Section 4 of this guide for a wealth of information about policies, planning, and procedures for weddings being held on the church campus. You'll also find the *Planning Checklist for Those Being Married at Wheaton Bible Church* (found in the Appendix, page 51) which will help guide you through the process. Visit wheatonbible.org/Weddings to fill out the initial request form. Our Event Scheduler will be in touch to discuss availability for your wedding date and the space you are interested in. The Events Scheduler will then invite each of you to fill out the *Wedding Application* forms (found on pages 55–58 in the appendix or online at wheatonbible.org/Weddings).

GETTING MARRIED AT WBC BY AN OUTSIDE OFFICIANT?

In addition to the process described above, you will need to have your outside officiant complete our *External Officiant* form (found on page 61 in the Appendix and at wheatonbible.org/Weddings).

Section Three

PLANNING YOUR CEREMONY



A Typical Wedding Ceremony

While many couples wish to plan unique moments in their wedding, it can be helpful to start with an understanding of the elements that are usually part of the ceremony.

Prelude music begins about 15 to 20 minutes before the ceremony while ushers are seating the guests. Candles can be lit during the prelude, signifying the beginning of the processional. Grandmothers and mothers are seated, sometimes during the special songs. The mother of the bride is escorted to her seat last. If a unity candle is being used and the candle lighters did not light the outside tapers, the mothers or both sets of parents might do so at this time.

The Processional begins with the men (pastor, groom, best man, groomsmen) entering to the specified processional music. Bridal attendants process to specially chosen music. Bride and her father enter.

Opening remarks are given by the pastor. The bride is presented to the groom by her parent(s).

Declaration of Intent is asked of the bride and groom.

Ministry of the Word includes the reading of Scripture and a brief message.

Exchange of Vows and Exchange of Rings are performed by the officiating pastor.

Symbol (unity candle, sand, rope of three strands, communion, etc.)

Prayer of Dedication asks God's blessing on the marriage.

Pronouncement declares the bride and groom husband and wife and is followed by a kiss.

Presentation introduces for the first time Mr. and Mrs. _____.

Recessional begins with the bride and groom leaving the platform, followed by the rest of the wedding party. Ushers return to escort the parents and grandparents. Either the bride and groom will return to dismiss the guests row by row or ushers will dismiss guests.

Special music during the ceremony may be inserted at various times, such as before the Processional, the Ministry of the Word, and/or a symbolic element.

As you plan your own ceremony, there are a number of helpful resources in the Appendix, including Sample Vows (page 65), Sample Ring Vows (page 69), and Suggested Scripture Readings (page 71) for your consideration.

Music and Sound

Special care should be taken to plan music that is suitable and reverent and directs your attention to God. Some secular music may be inappropriate for a religious ceremony. If you are not sure about the appropriateness of a specific song, please ask the wedding coordinator or officiant who can help determine whether a song should be used.

It is your responsibility to contact the musicians and make arrangements with them. If you desire to have the organ used in the East Worship Center, please contact Tony Payne, tonylouispayne@mac.com, 630.204.5122. You may use a pianist of your own choosing.

The following is a list of musicians from Wheaton Bible Church who are available to perform at your wedding. Please check with them at the time of initial contact regarding availability, fees, and honorariums. This is separate from Wheaton Bible Church's rental fees.

Piano or Organ

Tony Payne, tonylouispayne@mac.com, 630.204.5122

Piano

Kathy Cardwell, kc725@sbcglobal.net, 630.430.9324

Nancy Troupos, ntroupos@gmail.com, 616.633.9635

Cindy Trowbridge, cindytrwbridge1@gmail.com, 630.681.8085

Flute

Eileen Herse, eherse@gmail.com, 630.334.1644

Jessica Siletzky, luvajess@yahoo.com, 630.802.3958

Violin

Cj Spensley, cjspensley@wheatonbible.org, 630.247.4451

Trumpet

Scott Ashley, scott.ashley2010@gmail.com, 630.847.9823

Cello

Lisa Volle, lisavolle@sbcglobal.net, 630.668.1794

String Quartet or Trio

Cj Spensley, cjspensley@wheatonbible.org, 630.247.4451

Ceremony Plan

The following form will walk you through your wedding day. Answering all the questions ensures you have thought through many important details. It is helpful if you take time to work through this prior to your final meeting with the Wedding Coordinator.

Bride _____ Groom _____

Date _____ Time _____

Number of guests expected _____ Wedding location _____

REHEARSAL/SETUP SCHEDULE

Setup/Décor time _____ Rehearsal time _____

Don't forget to bring your marriage license, copies of the program, and your final payment to the rehearsal.

WEDDING-DAY SCHEDULE

Bride and attendants arrive _____

Groom and attendants arrive _____

Flowers arrive _____ Name/cell phone _____

Photographer arrives _____ Name/cell phone _____

Videographer arrives _____ Name/cell phone _____

Officiant arrives _____ Name/cell phone _____

Musicians arrive _____ Name/cell phone _____

Are you bringing any snacks into the church for the attendants before the wedding? Yes No

If so, be sure to bring things that will not stain shirts or gowns. Suggestions: water, pretzels, cheese and crackers, grapes, Sprite or 7-Up, small ham or turkey sandwiches without mustard or ketchup.

When will the photographs begin? _____

Will you have any pictures of the bride and groom taken together before the ceremony?

(yes/no,where?) _____

If at WBC, would you like to arrange a private time for bride/groom before pictures begin? _____

Would you like music played during that time, and what would you like? _____

Who needs to be in the Worship Center/Chapel for pictures before the ceremony?

PLANNING YOUR CEREMONY

What room will the groomsmen use to “hang out”? _____

What room will be set aside as a dressing room for the bride and her attendants? _____

Note: Hair spray is not allowed in preparation rooms at Wheaton Bible Church.

USHERS & GUEST BOOK

Do you have ushers or are your groomsmen going to perform the ushering responsibilities?

What are the names of your ushers?

Will the ushers be handing out programs? YES NO

If not, who will be handing out programs? _____

Do you want the ushers to seat the guests in the traditional manner (bride’s family and friends on the left, groom’s family and friends on the right, and balance the seating with all other guests that are mutual friends)? _____

How many rows at the front should be reserved for family or special guests? _____

Which rows for which family members? _____

Will you have a guest book or something for your guests to sign? YES NO

If so, who will be directing your guests in this? _____

If any guests bring gifts to the wedding, who do you want to be responsible for receiving the gifts, putting them in a particular location, and taking them to a vehicle after (or before) the ceremony?

Note: All decorations, gifts, and clothing must be removed from the church immediately after the wedding and picture taking.

BEFORE THE CEREMONY

Sound check for musicians/readers (plan about one and a half hours before ceremony) _____

Worship Center cleared (typically 30 minutes before) _____

- bridal party to dressing rooms
- ushers in place
- attendants in place
- prelude/seating of guests begin (typically 20 minutes before) _____
- ushers offer left arm for ushering

BEGINNING OF CEREMONY

Prelude Musicians/Songs (to play while guests are being seated)

Song chosen _____

CD iPod/phone (in wedding playlist) Live music by _____

Song chosen _____

CD iPod/phone (in wedding playlist) Live music by _____

Song chosen _____

CD iPod/phone (in wedding playlist) Live music by _____

Song chosen _____

CD iPod/phone (in wedding playlist) Live music by _____

Song chosen _____

CD iPod/phone (in wedding playlist) Live music by _____

Are you particular about when you want your wedding to start? _____

Should it start promptly? Within 7 minutes? Within 15 minutes? Do you want the guest book to stay open until all the guests have arrived, or should the guest book be closed 5 minutes before the ceremony and then reopened again following the ceremony as guests are exiting?

CANDLE LIGHTING

Will you be using the church's candelabra(s) or your own unity candle set?

Who will light the candelabras and/or unity candle, and when? _____

(Please provide your own unity candle. They are traditionally lit by mothers but also can be lit by both parents, by ushers, or by junior attendants)

Candle-lighting song _____

CD iPod/phone (in wedding playlist) Live music by _____

GRANDPARENTS OR SPECIAL GUESTS

Music to be played while family and special guests are being seated?

Song chosen _____

CD iPod/phone (in wedding playlist) Live music by _____

Are there guests you would like seated in a special place? _____

PLANNING YOUR CEREMONY

If so, what are their names, where do you want them seated, and whom do you want to escort them?

The groom's paternal grandparents _____

The escort is _____

The groom's maternal grandparents _____

The escort is _____

The bride's paternal grandparents _____

The escort is _____

The bride's maternal grandparents _____

The escort is _____

SEATING OF PARENTS

What are the names of the groom's parents? _____

The escort is _____

What is the name of the bride's mother? _____

The escort is _____

RUNNER

Will you have a runner? YES NO

WBC does not supply runners. You must supply your own runner. Aisle Runner Length for East Worship Center is 80 feet and for the Chapel, it is 30 feet.

Do you plan to have it in place before the ceremony or unrolled as part of the ceremony? _____

(If you choose to unroll it during the ceremony, it is easiest to have it unrolled right after the mothers light the unity candle but some brides prefer to wait and have it unrolled just before the bride enters or, if there is a flower girl, just before the flower girl enters.)

PROCESSIONAL

What music will you use for the groomsmen and bridesmaids to enter?

Song chosen _____

CD iPod/phone (in wedding playlist) Live music by _____

Will the attendants enter

- in the traditional manner (men from front, bridesmaids individually from back)
 as couples

Please list the attendants in order, with the Maid/Matron of Honor and Best Man listed first. *(If there are ring bearers, flower girls, or junior attendants, please list them, as well as their ages.)*

If you are using children in the wedding party, where will they sit or stand during the ceremony? (It is a good idea for children in the wedding party who are younger than nine years old to sit in the front row or with parents or grandparents during the ceremony rather than remain standing on the platform.)

Will the music change for the bride to enter? Yes No

Will the bride enter on the arm of her father
 with both parents
 with someone else: _____

Do you want the doors closed before bride enters? _____

Song chosen _____

CD iPod/phone (in wedding playlist) Live music by _____

CEREMONY

The order of service is completely up to you and your officiant, but this will help serve as a guide to think through what that could look like. **Plan to bring a copy of your program to your final meeting with the Wedding Coordinator.**

Presentation of the Bride

Worship/Special Music

Song chosen _____

CD iPod/phone (in wedding playlist) Live music by _____

PLANNING YOUR CEREMONY

Charge from Officiant

Declaration of Intent

Prayer

Worship/Special Music

Song chosen _____

CD iPod/phone (in wedding playlist) Live music by _____

Reading of Scripture

Passage(s) _____ Read by _____

Passage(s) _____ Read by _____

Ministry of the Word

Exchange of Vows

Exchange of Rings

Unity Candle or other symbol of unity (optional) _____

Song chosen _____

CD iPod/phone (in wedding playlist) Live music by _____

Prayer

Pronouncement of Marriage

Kiss

Presentation of Bride and Groom

RECESSIONAL

Song chosen _____

CD iPod/phone (in wedding playlist) Live music by _____

The recessional should be the reverse of the order in which the couples entered. The first attendants in should be the last attendants out. If you have an uneven number of men and women, how would you like them to exit during the recessional?

Will you be ushering out your own guests
 using ushers

Do you want your parents and grandparents to follow you out after the recessional
 wait for an usher or family member to come and escort them out?

Will someone be passing out bubbles or something else as your guests exit for the send-off?

If so, who? _____

RECEIVING LINE

Will you have a receiving line

If so, where? _____

Whom do you want to be part of the receiving line and in what order should they stand? (If you have 100 guests, plan a minimum of a half hour for a receiving line.)

If you are not having a receiving line until the reception, do you want the pastor to announce that at the end of the ceremony? Any other announcements you would like the pastor to make? Be sure to talk through this with the pastor when you are planning the ceremony details.

If you are having pictures immediately following the ceremony, are there any special details to note?

PLANNING YOUR CEREMONY

Some couples choose to do a “send off” with guests using something like bubbles. If pictures are still needed, bride/groom could have car/limo drive around the block and return to the church by a different door. Some couples wait in a dressing room for a time while guests are dismissed and then go into the Worship Center for pictures. It is important that all family members who will be included in pictures are made aware of the plan so they can be present and ready when you are.

Do decorations need to be taken down? Yes No

If so, who will be responsible for that? _____

Do the people helping with decorations have cars available and know where you want the decorations or gifts delivered after the ceremony? Yes No

All items need to be removed from the dressing rooms.

Who will be responsible for that? _____

Section Four

GETTING MARRIED AT WHEATON BIBLE CHURCH



Getting Married at Wheaton Bible Church

We would enjoy the opportunity to bless your special day by hosting it! Start by filling out the initial request form at wheatonbible.org/Weddings. You can also contact Judi Gillison, Events Scheduler, at 630.876.6612 to find out if the date you desire is available. Then each of you (bride and groom) will be invited to fill out the Wedding Applications found at the end of this section. Before you do that, there are a few things you should know.

Wheaton Bible Church facilities are available to members and regular attendees of at least six months as well as to immediate family (defined as children, grandchildren, brothers or sisters) of members or regular attendees. Wedding space is available for Friday night or Saturday weddings only, and availability may be limited during holiday seasons.

CEREMONY SPACES		
East Worship Center	Seats 500	\$750 per event
Chapel	Seats 120	\$550 per event
RECEPTION SPACES		
Fellowship Center (Gym)	Up to 32 large round tables (8 per table) accommodating 256 people, includes space for buffet/beverage tables.	\$600 per day
Lower 50/52	Up to 6 large round tables, accommodating 50 people.	\$100 (half the room)
	Up to 12 large round tables, accommodating 100 people.	\$200 (whole room)
Kitchen		\$75 per day
Wedding Reception Coordinator required for onsite reception	Additional services provided by the Wedding Coordinator	\$225

Wedding Rental fees include Wedding Coordinator Services, Technical Production Crew services (approximately 3 hours on wedding day), use of wedding furniture and equipment, evening rehearsal space, wedding day space, dressing rooms, all setup and clean up.

Custodial services are provided to assure clean, ready-to-use facilities; however, the wedding party is responsible for removing all their belongings from dressing rooms, including any food and beverages brought in for the wedding party.

DEPOSIT AND FEE PAYMENT

A nonrefundable deposit of \$150 is required to secure the wedding date and room requested. The balance of the rental fee will be due one week before the wedding rehearsal. Please mail your payment to the church, or you may turn it in to the Welcome Desk at the church. (Be sure to send to the attention of Events Scheduler so that you receive proper credit). Checks should be made payable to Wheaton Bible Church.

Facility Rental Information

RESPECT FOR FACILITIES

The facilities of WBC have been dedicated to God for the purpose of worship, ministry, outreach, and fellowship. We ask that all people using these facilities conduct themselves and their events in a manner consistent with this purpose. Please know that we do not permit alcoholic beverages, smoking, or social dancing on the church campus. We also ask you to refrain from using red or purple punch and from throwing rice, birdseed, confetti, etc.

SETUP AND USE OF EQUIPMENT

Setup and cleanup services are already included in the fee charged to rent this facility. It is the sole responsibility of those renting the facilities to pay for, handle delivery, unloading, loading, and returning of any equipment that is rented and/or brought into the facility from outside resources. All decorations, flowers, and equipment brought in from outside resources must be removed immediately following (same day) the wedding ceremony and/or reception. Anything left behind will be disposed of, and the bride and groom are responsible for ensuring that this information is communicated to all persons involved in decorating and bringing in equipment from outside resources.

DECORATING

Decorating and setup plans will need to be discussed with the Wedding Coordinator so these plans can be pre-approved by the Director of Facility Services as needed.

The following items are available for use by the bride and groom the day of their wedding. The Wedding Coordinator will show you these items during your first meeting together, and you will need to communicate what items you are interested in at your final meeting.

- Kneeler
- Candle lighters (2)
- White table for own unity candle (candle not included)
- Wrought-iron table for own unity candle (candle not included)
- White pillar plant stands (2)
- Music stand(s)
- Candelabras
- Gift table (5 feet long)
- Unity candle holder
- Acrylic podium for Scripture reader
- Wooden podium for guest book
- High-boy table

Candles are permitted only on the platforms of the Chapel and East Worship Center. No candles/candle stands are to be attached to the pews because of the potential fire hazard, but battery-operated candles are fine. The church provides candle lighters and candelabras. If you wish to furnish your own candles for the wedding ceremony, they must be enclosed in a glass container with a sealed bottom and receive approval at least two weeks prior to event.

TECHNICAL SERVICES AND RECORDING

Three hours of technical support are provided as part of your rental fee on your wedding day and at the rehearsal. If additional technical support is needed due to musical components of your ceremony that go beyond the time allotted, additional fees will be assessed based on the needs. This should be a part of your ongoing discussions with the Wedding Coordinator at least one month prior to wedding day.

A sound check will be done approximately 90 minutes prior to the ceremony and before rehearsal.

He/she will operate the sound equipment for the ceremony and make an audio recording of the service if you desire. Details of the audio equipment needed (such as mics) will be given to the technical person by the Wedding Coordinator prior to the wedding. If using pre-recorded music, please bring those musical selections on device or CD to the rehearsal.

GENERAL WEDDING POLICIES

Every wedding must have a WBC Wedding Coordinator, and this is included in your rental fees. An outside wedding planner may be used by the couple, but this person will need to work in conjunction with the WBC Wedding Coordinator who has the final say in all decisions. There will be no fee reduction for using an outside planner. If the reception is held at WBC, the ceremony should start no later than 1:00 pm for Saturday weddings.

We are unable to schedule a Sunday wedding due to all the other activities going on that day, and there may be limitations for December weddings as well.

Weddings in the East Worship Center must begin no later than 3:00 pm on Saturday unless special arrangements are approved in advance by the Wedding Coordinator. Friday weddings must begin no later than 5:00 pm if a reception is planned at the church, or no later than 7:00 pm without a reception at the church.

CHURCH POLICIES: RECEPTIONS

All decorations are subject to the approval of the Director of Facility Services. The only acceptable adhesive is poster putty. No masking tape or duct tape is allowed on carpets, only floor tape that is provided by Operations. Decorations must not obstruct fire alarms or sprinklers. The bride/groom or designated representative is responsible to have all decorations removed immediately following the wedding and/or reception held at the church.

Please control children, and do not allow them to play in any rooms not being used for the reception. No childcare is provided.

Renter must provide all supplies for reception including, but not limited to, glasses, silverware, dinnerware, centerpieces, decorations, tablecloths, and paper items. The supplies, dishes, silverware and other supplies in the church kitchen are for ministry use only. The kitchen should be left as it was found.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Wheaton Bible Church assumes no liability if an event must be cancelled because of physical impairment or inability to gain access to facility (due to natural disasters, power failures, fire, etc.).

In the event of cancellation by Wheaton Bible Church for other reasons, all deposits and fees will be refunded. In the unlikely event that cancellation becomes necessary, Wheaton Bible Church will make every effort to provide as much advance notice as possible.

Cancellation by the requestor will result in the refund of all paid fees except the \$150 deposit.

Music and Sound

Special care should be taken to plan music that is suitable and reverent and directs your attention to God. Some secular music may be inappropriate for a religious ceremony. If you are not sure about the appropriateness of a specific song, please ask the wedding coordinator who can help determine whether a song should be used.

It is your responsibility to contact the musicians and make arrangements with them. If you desire to have the organ used in the East Worship Center, please contact Tony Payne, tonylouispayne@mac.com, 630.204.5122. You may use a pianist of your own choosing.

The following is a list of musicians from Wheaton Bible Church who are available to perform at your wedding. Please check with them at the time of initial contact regarding availability, fees, and honorariums. This is separate from Wheaton Bible Church's rental fees.

Piano or Organ

Tony Payne, tonylouispayne@mac.com, 630.204.5122

Piano

Kathy Cardwell, kc725@sbcglobal.net, 630.430.9324

Nancy Troupos, ntroupos@gmail.com, 616.633.9635

Cindy Trowbridge, cindytrowbridge1@gmail.com, 630.681.8085

Flute

Eileen Herse, eherse@gmail.com, 630.334.1644

Jessica Siletzky, luvajess@yahoo.com, 630.802.3958

Violin

Cj Spensley, cjspensley@wheatonbible.org, 630.247.4451

Trumpet

Scott Ashley, scott.ashley2010@gmail.com, 630.847.9823

Cello

Lisa Volle, lisavolle@sbcglobal.net, 630.668.1794

String Quartet or Trio

Cj Spensley, cjspensley@wheatonbible.org, 630.247.4451

Photographs and Videotaping

Photographs

Flash photography is discouraged during the service. We encourage this to be done discreetly so as not to disturb the spirit of worship.

Videotaping

Videotaping is permitted during the ceremony from the back or side of the worship center with a stationary tripod and available light.

When you meet with your photographer, see if he or she has a list of commonly requested wedding photos. Consider putting together a list of what you are looking for, who you want pictures with, and when you would like to capture each type of photo during the wedding day.

Ceremony Rehearsal

Rehearsals are typically scheduled the night before your wedding day. It would be helpful to invite all those involved in your wedding ceremony.

This might include

- bride/groom,
- parents of the bride/groom,
- grandparents of the bride/groom (if possible),
- bridal party, best man, matron/maid of honor, groomsmen, bridesmaids,
- flower girl, ring bearer,
- ushers,
- pastor officiating at the wedding,
- Scripture readers, and
- any musicians that are involved in the prelude, ceremony, or postlude.

Bride/groom will provide details on all aspects of the wedding day to the Wedding Coordinator so she can work with the officiating pastor during the rehearsal and wedding day.

Appendix



Appendix

Planning Checklist for Those Being Married Offsite by a WBC Pastor	49
Planning Checklist for Those Being Married at Wheaton Bible Church.....	51

WEDDING APPLICATION FORMS

Wedding Inquiry Request Form	53
Wedding Application Form: Bride-to-Be	55
Wedding Application Form: Groom-to-Be	57
Wedding Agreement Form	59
Facility Agreement Form	61
Outside Officiant Form	63

SAMPLE VOWS AND READINGS

Sample Wedding Vows	65
Sample Ring Vows	69
Suggested Scripture Readings	71

Planning Checklist for Those Being Married Offsite by a WBC Pastor

		DATE COMPLETED
1	WEDDING APPLICATION PROCESS	
	Complete bride-to-be and groom-to-be <i>Wedding Application</i> forms.	
2	PASTORAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL	
	When both Wedding Application forms are completed and submitted, the approval process begins. The Event Scheduler will be in touch when approval has been granted for your wedding. To finalize the reservation process, the following must be completed.	
	Complete <i>Wedding Agreement</i> form.	
3	PREPARATION FOR YOUR MARRIAGE	
	This class is offered in the fall and the spring. Check the Wheaton Bible Church website for the exact dates and to register. On the second week of the class, you will be invited to each take an online <i>Foccus</i> assessment that will guide your discussions with the pastor and mentoring couple in the months prior to your wedding. Instructions and password will be sent to you.	
	Register for <i>Preparation for Marriage</i> workshop	
	Complete the online <i>Foccus</i> assessment	
	Schedule meeting with mentoring couple	
4	PREPARATION FOR YOUR WEDDING DAY (BEGIN EARLY!)	
	Apply for your marriage license within thirty days of your wedding date. For more details about obtaining a marriage license in DuPage County, visit www.dupageco.org/CountyClerk/1822	
	Meet with your Pastor/Officiant.	

Consider what steps you will take to continue growing together as a couple and in your relationship with Jesus Christ through the first years of your marriage, and continue to stay connected in biblical community!

NOTE: Many forms are also available online at wheatonbible.org/Wedding.

Planning Checklist for Those Being Married at Wheaton Bible Church

		DATE COMPLETED
1	BOOK YOUR DATE AND YOUR OFFICIANT	
	Visit wheatonbible.org/Weddings to fill out the initial request form. You can also contact Judi Gillison, Events Scheduler at 630.876.6612 to discuss the availability of your requested date.	
	Arrange for someone to officiate at your wedding. Becky Anderson, Marriage Ministry, can provide guidance as needed.	
2	WEDDING APPLICATION PROCESS	
	Complete bride-to-be and groom-to-be <i>Wedding Application</i> forms.	
	<i>Outside Officiant</i> form should be completed if you are using a pastor/officiant from outside Wheaton Bible Church.	
3	PASTORAL REVIEW & APPROVAL	
	When all forms are completed and have been submitted, the approval process begins. The Event Scheduler will be in touch when approval has been granted for your wedding. To finalize the reservation process, the following three items must be completed.	
	Complete and submit <i>Wedding Agreement</i> form.	
	Deposit of \$150 sent to Judi Gillison, Events Scheduler.	
	Complete and submit <i>Facility Agreement</i> form.	
4	WEDDING EVENT CONFIRMATION	
	The event is scheduled on the calendar and a wedding coordinator is assigned (six months prior to the event) to guide you through the planning of your wedding ceremony here at Wheaton Bible Church.	
	Meet with the wedding coordinator (4–6 months before the wedding).	
5	PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE CLASS	
	This 8-week class is offered in the fall and the spring. Check wheatonbible.org/Marriage to find the exact dates and to register.	
	Register for <i>Preparation for Marriage</i> workshop.	
	Complete the online <i>Foccus</i> assessment.	
	Schedule meeting with mentoring couple.	
6	PREPARATION FOR YOUR WEDDING DAY (BEGIN EARLY!)	
	Decide on musical components for your ceremony and contact musicians. Be sure to discuss fees/honorarium, and bring payment with you on your wedding day.	

APPENDIX

	DATE COMPLETED
Choose a <i>photographer and/or videographer</i> .	
Choose a <i>florist</i> . Be sure to provide a copy of our church guidelines (page 39).	
Apply for your <i>marriage license</i> within thirty days of your wedding date. For more details on what steps to take with the county, visit dupageco.org/CountyClerk/1822 . (Note wedding licenses are specific to the county you are being married in.)	
Meet with your pastor/officiant.	
Notify your bridal party and the officiating pastor about the day/time of your <i>rehearsal</i> .	
Second meeting with the Wedding Coordinator.	
Your Wedding Coordinator will submit your setup and tech requests and will help you navigate all the details and the schedule for your wedding day. It's helpful to have details for your ceremony completed before your final meeting with your Wedding Coordinator.	
Final payment to the Event Scheduler or your Wedding Coordinator a week prior to wedding. Make checks payable to Wheaton Bible Church.	

Consider what steps you will take to continue growing together as a couple and in your relationship with Jesus Christ through the first years of your marriage. Continue to stay connected in a biblical community!

Wedding Inquiry Request Form

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! Please provide the following information and we'll be in touch with you about availability. (Completing these forms online at wheatonbible.org/Weddings is preferred, if possible.)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

How long have you attended Wheaton Bible Church? _____ Years _____ Months

Who are you marrying? _____

Your fiance's email address _____

The date you are requesting for your wedding is _____

The time you are requesting for your wedding is _____

Rehearsal date you are requesting is _____

Rehearsal time you are requesting is _____

Officiant Information

- A Wheaton Bible Church pastor has already agreed to officiate our wedding.
- We need help finding a Wheaton Bible Church pastor to officiate the wedding.
- We will use an outside officiant.

Please provide their name _____

- Not sure yet.

Please note that we request the outside officiant to fill out a separate form (see page 63).

APPENDIX

If you are interested in getting married at Wheaton Bible Church, what room(s) would you like to request?

CEREMONY SPACES		
East Worship Center	Seats 600	\$750 per event
Chapel	Seats 120	\$550 per event
RECEPTION SPACES		
Fellowship Center (Gym)	Up to 32 large round tables (8 per table) accommodating 256 people, includes space for buffet/beverage tables.	\$600 per day
Lower 50/52	Up to 6 large round tables, accommodating 50 people.	\$100 (half the room)
	Up to 12 large round tables, accommodating 100 people.	\$200 (whole room)
Kitchen		\$75 per day
Wedding Reception Coordinator	Additional services provided by the Wedding Coordinator	\$225

Wedding Rental fees include Wedding Coordinator Services, Technical Production Crew services for rehearsal and ceremony (approximately 3 hours on wedding day), use of wedding furniture and equipment, evening rehearsal space, wedding day space, dressing rooms, all setup and clean up.

Attending our 8-week *Preparation for Marriage* class is required for all couples getting married at Wheaton Bible Church or by a WBC pastor. Are you willing to commit to attending this class (offered in the fall and spring)? YES NO

Any other questions or information that you would like to share?

Wedding Application Form: Bride-to-Be

Both the bride-to-be and groom-to-be are required to fill out their respective forms. (Completing these forms online at wheatonbible.org/Weddings is preferred, if possible.)

BRIDE-TO-BE WEDDING APPLICATION FORM

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Occupation _____

How long have you attended Wheaton Bible Church? _____ Years _____ Months

Wedding date _____ Time _____

Rehearsal date _____ Time _____

I am marrying _____

Pastor requested _____

(If using an outside officiant, be sure to have that person fill out the Outside Officiant form.)

We would like help finding an officiant.

What rooms would you like to request? _____

Wedding Rental fees for your ceremony include Wedding Coordinator Services, Technical Production Crew services for rehearsal and ceremony, use of wedding furniture and equipment, evening rehearsal space, wedding-day space, dressing rooms, all setup and cleanup.

- East Worship Center, seats 500 (\$750 per event)
- Chapel, seats 120 (\$550 per event)
- Fellowship Center/Gym (\$600 per day)
- Lower 50/52 (\$100 for half of the room, \$200 for the whole room)

Are your parents in favor of this marriage? Yes No
If not, please explain.

Wedding Application Form: Groom-to-Be

Both the bride-to-be and groom-to-be are required to fill out their respective forms. (Completing these forms online at wheatonbible.org/weddings is preferred, if possible.)

GROOM-TO-BE WEDDING APPLICATION FORM

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Occupation _____

How long have you attended Wheaton Bible Church? _____ Years _____ Months

Wedding date _____ Time _____

Rehearsal date _____ Time _____

I am marrying _____

Pastor requested _____

(If using an outside officiant, be sure to have that person fill out the Outside Officiant form.)

We would like help finding an officiant.

What rooms would you like to request? _____

Wedding Rental fees for your ceremony include Wedding Coordinator Services, Technical Production Crew services for rehearsal and ceremony, use of wedding furniture and equipment, evening rehearsal space, wedding-day space, dressing rooms, all setup and cleanup.

- East Worship Center, seats 500 (\$750 per event)
- Chapel, seats 120 (\$550 per event)
- Fellowship Center/Gym (\$600 per day)
- Lower 50/52 (\$100 for half of the room, \$200 for the whole room)

Are your parents in favor of this marriage? Yes No

If not, please explain.

Wedding Agreement Form

To be completed by all couples being married at Wheaton Bible Church or by a WBC Pastor.
(Completing these forms online at wheatonbible.org/Weddings is preferred, if possible.)

Please put a check on each line below indicating agreement with the statement:

- We have read about and agree to make *biblical community* a priority during this time of marriage preparation. (see page 10)
- We have read about and agree to participate in Wheaton Bible Church's *Preparation for Marriage* class or agreed upon alternative. (see page 10)
- We have read about and believe we are in the same place spiritually. (see page 11)
- I have read and acknowledge the statement on Living Together and Premarital Sex (see page 12). We will be held accountable to not have sex until we are married. If currently living together, we agree to live separately until the wedding. If we have been living together and have children together, we will develop a plan to honor God with the help of a pastor.
- We have read and acknowledge the statement on Divorce and Remarriage (see page 14). If previously divorced, I believe I meet the qualifications outlined and am free to remarry.

Groom's name (please print)

Bride's name (please print)

Groom's signature

Bride's signature

Date

Date

Facility Agreement Form

To be completed for all weddings being held at Wheaton Bible Church

Note: This form can be completed online at wheatonbible.org/Weddings and we prefer that you fill them out online if possible.

- I have read and agree to respect Wheaton Bible Church's facilities (see page 40) including our commitment to:
- no alcoholic beverages
 - no smoking
 - no throwing of rice, birdseed, confetti, etc.
 - no red or purple punch
 - no social dancing.
- I have read and agree to decorate based on the written guidelines, will gain approval from the WBC Wedding Coordinator on the decorating plan, and commit to being responsible for removing all items brought after the ceremony before heading to the reception, or at the conclusion of the on-site reception.

Cancellation Policy

WBC assumes no liability if an event must be cancelled due to impairment or inability to gain access to facility (due to natural disasters, power failures, fire, etc.)

In the event of cancellation by WBC for other reasons, all deposits and fees will be refunded. In the unlikely event that cancellation becomes necessary, WBC will make every effort to provide as much advance notice as possible.

Cancellation by the requestor will result in the refund of all paid fees except the \$150 deposit.

Groom's name (please print)

Bride's name (please print)

Groom's signature

Bride's signature

Date

Date

Outside Officiant Form

Note: If possible, have your officiant complete this form online at wheatonbible.org/Weddings.

Name _____

Title _____

Church or Ministry _____

Church/Ministry Phone _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Your services have been requested by (please list both bride and groom)

Bride _____

Groom _____

I believe in the deity of Jesus Christ. Yes No

I believe eternal salvation is available only through Jesus Christ. Yes No

I accept the Bible as the authoritative Word of God. Yes No

Based on your knowledge of the persons seeking to be married, how would you define their current individual relationships with Jesus Christ?

APPENDIX

Wheaton Bible Church seeks to ensure that we help marriages/couples start off following the biblical model for marriage. To that end, we ask the following of our internal pastors. With this wedding being at WBC, would you be willing to

1. Not marry the couple if only *one* of them professes faith in Christ's work on the Cross to redeem us?
 Yes No

2. If one or both persons getting married has been divorced, seek to understand the situation and proceed with the marriage only if
 1. it was a biblical divorce, *and*
 2. the parties have no chance of reconciliation Yes No

3. Encourage the couple not to have sex until after their wedding. If the couple is living together encourage them to live apart until their wedding.
 Yes No

4. Are you committed to holding them accountable regarding participation in the *Preparation for Marriage* class at Wheaton Bible Church?
 Yes No

Are there any other comments you would like to share with us?

I am licensed or ordained under the authority of the following church/ministry:

Officiant's name (please print)

Officiant's signature

Date

Sample Wedding Vows

Wedding vows should speak to the lifelong commitment you are making together. Consider carefully your vows and the significance of what you are promising to each other. If you are saying, “for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish till death do us part,” be prepared to speak these words and live them out.

You may choose to write your own vows, and if you do so, be sure that they express the permanence of the commitment you are making as you stand before God, family, and friends. If you do choose to write your own vows, plan to present those to your officiating pastor at least one week before your wedding for approval. We suggest that you not try to memorize them but let the officiating pastor guide you through them during the ceremony.

SAMPLE ONE

Groom: In God’s perfect will and in the presence of these friends, I take you to be my wife, to love, honor, and respect from this day forward, even forever. I promise to provide for you, protect you, and defend you as God shall make me able. I will strive without ceasing to edify, encourage, and instruct you according to the command of the Lord Jesus Christ. With the love God has so freely manifested in me, I shall endeavor to give likewise this same affection to you. I vow my life to you, trusting in the providence of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom all things hold together.

Bride: [Groom’s name], I take you to be my husband and give to you all that I am and have. Through the power and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ I promise to love you with all of my being; to honor, respect, and esteem you above all others, submitting to your loving leadership in all things as unto Christ. I will comfort and care for you, endeavoring always to encourage and edify you. As we are blessed of God with children, I will strive to bring them up in the love of God, instructing them in His ways. As Jesus Christ is the most important person in our lives because He gives us life, I will seek to help you attain the stature and fullness of Christ as we serve Him together, from this day forward and throughout eternity.

SAMPLE TWO

If you, then, [groom’s name] and [bride’s name], have freely and deliberately chosen each other as partners in this holy estate, and know of no just cause why you should not be so united, in token thereof you will please join your right hands.

(Minister addressing the groom) [Groom’s name], in taking the woman you hold by the right hand to be your lawful wedded wife, before God and the witnesses present, you must promise to love her, to honor and cherish her in that relationship, and leaving all others cleave only to her, and to be to her in all things a true and faithful husband so long as you both shall live. Do you so promise?

(Minister addressing the bride) [Bride’s name], in taking the man you hold by the right hand to be your lawful wedded husband, before God and the witnesses present, you must promise to love him, honor and cherish him in that relationship, and leaving all others, cleave only to him, and to be to him in all things a true and faithful wife so long as you both shall live. Do you so promise?

Minister’s Response: Then are you each given to the other for richer or poorer, for better or worse, in sickness and in health till death shall part you?

SAMPLE THREE

Pastor: [Groom's name], do you take [bride's name], whose hand you hold to be your lawful wedded wife; do you sincerely promise in the presence of this company and in reverence before God, to love, honor, protect her through sunshine and shadow alike, keeping yourself unto her alone until death shall separate you? [Groom answers, "I do."]

[Bride's name], do you take this man, whose hand you hold, to be your lawful wedded husband; do you sincerely promise in reverence before God and in the presence of this company to be to him a loving, tender, and true wife, through sunshine and shadow alike, keeping yourself unto him alone, until death shall separate you? [Bride answers, "I do."] Now will you repeat these vows.

Groom: I, [groom's name], take you, [bride's name], to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you my love.

Pastor: And [bride's name], will you likewise repeat these vows.

Bride: I, [bride's name], take you, [groom's name], to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you my love.

SAMPLE FOUR

Groom: [Bride's name], I thank God for you and praise His name that we have both come to know Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. I believe that God has hand-picked you for me and in His perfect will has brought us together to complete each other and be His faithful servants. I need you. I need your love and your total life. As that need is met, I pray that our love for and obedience to Christ will be perfected. That through our relationship, God will demonstrate to the world around us what Jesus Christ can do in an individual life and any relationship. [Bride's name], I love you, and before God and these people here, I pledge my life to you. I promise to love you in an understanding way as Christ loves the church. I pledge to care for, to protect, to honor, and to love you no matter what the circumstances might be, until death separates us or Jesus Christ returns to take us home. [Bride's name], I believe God has truly brought us together and this love I have for you, no one will put asunder.

Bride: [Groom's name], with joy and thanksgiving I accept your pledge of life and love. God said it is not good for man to be alone, so He created me for you to complete you and to be a helper suitable for you. I need you, [groom's name], and I need your love just as we as Christians need Christ and His love. In my commitment to Christ, I will commit myself to you; in obedience to Him, I will obey you; in submission to Him, I will submit to you. I give to you now my life and my love and will from this day forward, honor you, respect you, and give to you all that is even yet mine as we are yet two. I will be greatly honored to be your wife, to bear your children, and to grow old with you. I love you, [groom's name], and I can rejoice in knowing that the love I have for you is based on the Word of the living God.

SAMPLE FIVE

Groom: [Bride's name], tonight as I take you to myself to be my life partner, I thank God that in His omniscience He has brought us together. The Word of God teaches that "he who finds a wife has found a good thing, and is blessed by God." I have been blessed by God in finding that good thing in you, and I commit my life to the most wonderful gift the Lord has ever given to me. And, [bride's name], know in your heart and in your mind that apart from my own relationship with the Lord, I will cherish nothing

more than I do you. I do and will love you as Christ loved the church, His bride, and I will honor you as a child of God and as my divinely chosen wife. All that I have and all that I am, I give to you. And I will love you until death do us part or until the Lord comes again and takes us both home to be with Him for eternity. I adore you, I need you, and from this day forth I belong to you and to you alone.

Bride: [Groom's name], because we are both at peace in the assurance that our Lord planned and blesses our coming together, I entrust my life and my love to you from this day forward. I come to you with my need for your strength, your understanding, and your tender care—needs you have so lovingly developed in me by completely filling them for me. I will strive with Christ's help to be a sensitive, gentle, and godly wife, and with His strength and guidance I'll stand with you through everything. I'll laugh with you and share your happiness, but as well, I'll comfort you in your sadness. I'll care for you when you're ill, I'll honor you in your hours of strength. And I'll joyfully submit to you as the head of our home because I respect you and your integrity and because God planned that it should be this way. Forsaking all others, I will keep myself to you until death shall temporarily separate us. And with our own love molded and directed by our Father in heaven, we will become one even while we are yet two.

SAMPLE SIX

Groom: [Bride's name], this day before God and these witnesses, with deepest joy, I receive you into my life to be one with you in marriage. As Christ is to the church, so by the grace of God, I will be to you—a loving and faithful husband, living my life for you, yet always exercising my headship over you even as Christ does over me. By the power of the Holy Spirit within me, I will fulfill all my responsibilities to you so that the love and righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ might be manifested in our marriage.

Bride: [Groom's name], this day before God and these witnesses, I commit myself to you in marriage, knowing that God meant us for each other. I accept my responsibility to submit to you as the head of our household as a service to the Lord. By the power of the Holy Spirit within me, I will fulfill my obligations, realizing that our relationship is exclusive of all others and is permanent in the sight of God, and I will strive to become one person with you.

SAMPLE SEVEN

Groom: I, [groom's name], take you, [bride's name], to be my wedded wife. And I do covenant and promise, before God and these witnesses, to be your loving and faithful husband; in plenty and in want; in joy and in sorrow; in sickness and in health; as long as we both shall live.

Bride: I, [bride's name], take you, [groom's name], to be my wedded husband. And I do covenant and promise, before God and these witnesses, to be your loving and faithful wife; in plenty and in want; in joy and in sorrow; in sickness and in health; as long as we both shall live.

SAMPLE EIGHT

Groom: I, [groom's name], take you, [bride's name], to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish as long as we both shall live, according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you my love.

Bride: I, [bride's name], take you, [groom's name], to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from

this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish as long as we both shall live, according to God’s holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you my love.

SAMPLE NINE

Groom: I, [groom’s name], take you, [bride’s name], to be my wedded wife. With deepest joy I receive you into my life, that together we may be one. As Christ is to the church, so I will be to you—a loyal, sacrificial husband, always performing my headship over you, even as Christ does over me. I promise you my deepest love and tender care. No matter where the Lord may lead us, I pledge you my life, as a loving and faithful husband.

Bride: I, [bride’s name], take you, [groom’s name], to be my wedded husband. With deepest joy I enter my new life with you. As is the church in her relationship to Christ, so I will be to you. I submit myself to your headship as to the Lord. I will live for you, loving you, learning from you, and seeking to please you. I pledge you my life as a loving, obedient, and faithful wife.

(Optional) That, like Ruth, I may say, “Whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.”

SAMPLE TEN

Groom: [Bride’s name], this day before God as our witness, and these friends, I receive you into my life to be one with you in marriage. As Christ loves the church and gave Himself for her, so I give myself for you to be a loving, faithful, and godly husband. As Christ is head of the church and is responsible for her, so this day, by the grace of God, I assume full responsibility for you, not only materially but also physically, emotionally, and spiritually. You are the most important person in my life next to the living Christ. I count you as a gift from God and as an answer to prayer. I will rely totally and completely on the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives to ensure that the Lord Jesus Christ is manifested in our marriage.

Bride: [Groom’s name], this day before God and these witnesses I take you to be my husband, and I give to you all that I am and have. I regard you as an answer to my prayers. You are the one God has chosen for me to complete. I submit myself to your headship as unto the Lord. Through the power and grace of Jesus Christ, I promise to love you with all of my being, to honor, respect, and esteem you above all others. I will comfort and care for you, endeavoring always to encourage and edify you. As we are blessed of God with children, I will strive to bring them up in the love and wisdom of God. As Jesus Christ is the most important person in our lives because He gave us life, I will seek to help you attain the stature and fullness of Christ as we serve Him together.

Sample Ring Vows

RING VOWS: SAMPLE ONE

Pastor: Now in God's sacred providence with us He has given us reminding tokens, and following this precedence you have chosen rings. These rings are of the most precious metal, which suggests the most priceless relationship on earth, that of a Christian home. Furthermore, the ring is endless until it is broken by an outside force, which fittingly represents the permanency of the marriage union until it's broken by the outside force of death. [Groom's name], in placing this ring, will you repeat after me these words.

Groom: I, [groom's name], give you this ring, [bride's name], as a token of my love, and I pledge you my loyalty and devotion until death separates us.

Pastor: [Bride's name], will you likewise, in placing this ring, repeat after me these words.

Bride: I, [bride's name], give you this ring, [groom's name], as a token of my love, and I pledge you my loyalty and devotion until death shall separate us.

RING VOWS: SAMPLE TWO

Groom: [Bride's name], as a symbol of our new relationship with Christ and each other, I give you this ring, that you may wear it until the Father calls either of us to heaven.

Bride: [Groom's name], as a symbol of our new relationship with Christ and each other, I give you this ring, that you may wear it until death separates us.

RING VOWS: SAMPLE THREE

Groom: [Bride's name], as God has demonstrated throughout history His relationship with man by giving a token as a sign of His covenant with man, so I, too, give you this ring as a token of my new relationship with you.

Bride: [Groom's name], just as Christ gave to us the bread and the wine to confirm His new covenant with us, so I give to you this ring to confirm our new covenant. Wear this ring, [groom's name], as long as we both shall live in remembrance of our new relationship with one another.

RING VOWS: SAMPLE FOUR

Groom: [Bride's name], with this ring I proclaim that you are my wife, and I will call you my wife for all the days of our life, or until our Lord returns.

Bride: [Groom's name], with this ring, I proclaim that you are my husband and I will call you my husband for all the days of our life, or until our Lord returns.

RING VOWS: SAMPLE FIVE

Pastor to Groom: What token do you give as an everlasting symbol of your love, sincerity, and faithfulness?

Groom: "A ring."

Pastor: As a ceaseless reminder of this hour and of the vow you have taken, place this ring, the symbol of your love, on the hand of your bride, and repeat after me:

Groom: "With this ring I thee wed, with loyal love I thee endow, and all my worldly goods with thee I share, in the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen."

Pastor to Bride: What token do you give as an everlasting symbol of your love, sincerity, faithfulness, and submission?

Bride: "A ring."

Pastor: As a ceaseless reminder of this hour and of the vow you have taken, place the ring, the symbol of your love, on the hand of your groom, and repeat after me:

Bride: "With this ring I thee wed, with loyal love I thee endow, and all my worldly goods with thee I share, in the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen."

Suggested Scripture Readings

The following are some examples of Scripture passages that may be used in your ceremony. This is certainly not a complete list, but these suggestions—taken from the NIV translation—can help get you started.

Genesis 2:18–24

The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky, and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Ruth 1:16–17

Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.”

Joshua 24:15

[Joshua said,] “If serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Psalm 150

Praise the LORD.

Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.

Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,

praise him with the harp and lyre,
praise him with timbrel and dancing,
praise him with the strings and pipe,
praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.
Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.
Praise the LORD.

Proverbs 18:22

He who finds a wife finds what is good
and receives favor from the LORD.

Song of Songs 2:10–13

My beloved spoke and said to me,
“Arise, my darling,
my beautiful one, come with me.
See! The winter is past;
the rains are over and gone.
Flowers appear on the earth;
the season of singing has come,
the cooing of doves
is heard in our land.
The fig tree forms its early fruit;
the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.
Arise, come, my darling;
my beautiful one, come with me.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12

Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labor:
If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.
But pity anyone who falls
and has 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.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Isaiah 55:12–13

You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.
Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,
and instead of briers the myrtle will grow.

This will be for the LORD's renown,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure forever.

Isaiah 63:7

I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD,
the deeds for which he is to be praised,
according to all the LORD has done for us—
yes, the many good things
he has done for Israel,
according to his compassion and many kindnesses.

Matthew 5:13–16

[Jesus said,] "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 7:24–27

[Jesus said,] "Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Matthew 19:4–6

"Haven't you read," [Jesus] replied, "that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Mark 10:6–9

[Jesus said,] "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

John 15:9–15

[Jesus said,] "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."

Romans 12:9–21

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."
Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1 Corinthians 7:1–16

Now for the matters you wrote about: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. I say this as a concession, not as a command. I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

Galatians 5:22–23

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 6:2

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Ephesians 3:17–20

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

Ephesians 5:1–2

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:3–21

Among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:22–33

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After

all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Philippians 2:1–4

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Colossians 2:6–10

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

Colossians 3:12–17

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 Corinthians 13:1–13

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind

me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Hebrews 13:4–7

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”
So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can mere mortals do to me?”

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

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

1 John 3:18

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 4:9–12

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.



That is why

a man

leaves his father and mother and

is united

to his

wife,

and they become

one flesh.



revised 8.30.18