

MARRIAGE POLICY

CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

6450 S. State Highway 360 • Grand Prairie, TX 75052

Barry L. Cameron • Pastor

BEFORE YOU GET MARRIED...

There's more to getting married than just getting married. And there's more to a wedding than just getting a few people together and having a ceremony. We want to make sure you understand as much as you possibly can about marriage before you get married, and to understand as much as you can about your wedding so everything can run smoothly and effectively when your day finally arrives.

To that end, we have put together these guidelines to assist you in preparing for your wedding. Please read this very carefully and when you are ready to request a date for your wedding, bring the signed form and questionnaire (attached) in to the church office. Then we'll explain to you the next step in preparing for your wedding.

It is our desire to help make sure your marriage is the happiest and most fulfilling relationship possible. We want your marriage to be all God intends for it to be. Marriage is a gift from God; therefore, He desires to be a part of your marriage and to bless your life together. That is why we share this information with you.

God created man and woman, and from the beginning intended that they be joined in marriage, so they might each give to the other what each one lacked. Since God created man and woman and designed the marriage relationship, it makes sense that He best knows how to build a happy marriage.

As we read His Word, we are able to discern basic principles which must be understood and applied if we hope to experience joy and fulfillment in marriage. Ignoring or compromising these principles will result in frustration, the loss of God's blessing, the consequence of His judgment, and ultimate failure in any marriage relationship.

Because we are committed to building strong marriages, we want to share the following Scriptures which form the basis for the guidelines in this policy manual. It is not our desire to condemn or reject anyone. However, we are Scripture bound to follow God's principles for marriage. The following Scriptures concern marriage and are the basis for the decisions we make regarding weddings we perform here:

Proverbs 5:1-23	Ecclesiastes 5:1-7	Romans 12:1-2	I Thessalonians 4:3-8
Proverbs 6:20-35	Matthew 5:27-32	I Corinthians 7:1-40	Hebrews 13:4
Proverbs 7:1-27	Matthew 19:3-12	I Corinthians 13:4-13	I Peter 3:1-7
Proverbs 12:4	Mark 10:2-11	II Corinthians 6:14-18	
Proverbs 21:9	Luke 16:18	Ephesians 5:21-33	
Proverbs 31:10-31	Romans 7:1-3	Colossians 3:18-19	

WHO WILL WE MARRY?

1. We cannot marry a couple if one person is a Christian and the other is not. God's Word clearly teaches that we are not to be unequally yoked. (Please read II Corinthians 6:14-18.)
2. We cannot marry couples who are living together or who are involved in sexually immoral relationships. (Please read Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 13:4; I Thessalonians 4:3-7; Galatians 5:16-21; Ephesians 5:1-3.)
3. We cannot marry a couple if either person does not have the blessing of their parents. (Age may alter this situation.)
4. We cannot marry a couple if either of them has been divorced within the last twelve (12) months. We believe every possible attempt must first be made for reconciliation before remarriage is considered. In cases where one or both parties have been divorced twelve (12) months or longer, the Pastor must decide in the light of what the Word of God says whether or not to perform the ceremony.
5. In case of pre-marital pregnancy, the marriage may or may not be performed depending on the maturity of the people involved and other considerations. The final decision to perform the ceremony will be determined by the Pastor.
6. No church staff member will marry a couple if one of the other staff members has refused to perform the ceremony. The Pastor must give approval of any wedding performed by a staff member.

PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING:

1. We require you and your fiancée to read six (6) books and listen to three (3) CD series during the four months prior to your marriage. These will be provided to you once you have paid your fees. The six books are:
 - THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES by Gary Chapman
 - THE ACT OF MARRIAGE by Tim and Beverly LaHaye (Zondervan)
 - MONEY BEFORE MARRIAGE (a financial workbook for engaged couples) by Larry Burkett (Moody) (We substitute MARRIAGE WITHOUT REGRETS for older couples.)
 - THE COMPLETE FINANCIAL GUIDE FOR YOUNG COUPLES by Larry Burkett (Victor Books) (We substitute MAKING LOVE LAST FOREVER for older couples.)
 - PERSONALITY PLUS FOR COUPLES by Florence Littauer (Fleming H. Revell)
 - THE ABC'S OF FINANCIAL FREEDOM by Barry Cameron (College Press)
- The three CD series are:
- HOME REMEDY
 - THE ABC'S OF FINANCIAL FREEDOM
 - BUILDING THE HOME OF YOUR DREAMS
2. We require each of you to fill out a seven-page, detailed questionnaire. This must be done separately to be effective.
 3. We require each of you to complete a personality assessment test. This must be done separately as well.
 4. We require three counseling sessions in the six months prior to your marriage. The initial one will be together with your fiancée, one will be a private session with you and the Pastor marrying you, and the final one will discuss the actual preparations for your rehearsal and wedding. All counseling sessions will be scheduled by our office.

WHO PERFORMS YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY?

1. All weddings held at Crossroads Christian Church will be performed by our Pastor or a member of our pastoral staff.
2. Our Pastor is not available for weddings during the months of July and August. If you choose a date during this period, another member of our pastoral staff will be performing your ceremony.
3. We do NOT rent out our facilities or allow outside Pastors to use our facilities for weddings or to perform weddings for members of our church. (No exceptions.)
4. Outside Pastors may assist our Pastor or a member of our pastoral staff, but may not perform the ceremony.
5. Our pastoral staff and our facilities are NOT available for weddings on holidays.
6. All weddings are held in our Chapel.

POLICIES GOVERNING THE WEDDING:

1. THE REHEARSAL

- The PASTOR or pastoral staff member performing your ceremony is in charge of all rehearsals.
- Rehearsals will always be scheduled at 6:00 in the evening on the day prior to your wedding. (For example: A Friday night wedding at 7:00 would have a rehearsal on Thursday night at 6:00.)
- All rehearsals must begin promptly at the time scheduled regardless of whether or not all of the wedding party is there. YOU are responsible for notifying the wedding party and making sure they are present for the rehearsal. Individuals who need to be present are: Bride, Groom, Best Man, Maid of Honor, Bride's Maids, Flower Girl, Ring Bearer, Groomsmen, Ushers, and Parents.
- All music to be played and/or sung must be cleared by the Pastor during your last counseling session.
- No changes will be permitted in the ceremony from rehearsal night to the wedding without prior approval of the Pastor.
- Your marriage license must be turned in to the Pastor or pastoral staff member performing your ceremony on the day of your rehearsal.
- All decorations for your wedding must be cleared by our church prior to your rehearsal. Decorations must not damage church property.
- Crossroads Christian Church is an alcohol free and tobacco free facility.
- Please do not expect the Pastor performing your ceremony to attend your rehearsal dinner or reception. We respectfully request that you not make him feel obligated to attend. Should the Pastor performing your ceremony desire to go, that will be his individual decision provided the invitation has been extended.

2. THE CEREMONY

- Our Pastors use a traditional and Biblical wedding ceremony that will be personalized for your wedding.
- The time of the ceremony will be set by the Pastor and the couple getting married. (This will usually be done during one of the counseling sessions.) Some weddings are on Friday nights, but most are on Saturday in the early afternoon at 1:00 or 2:00. **BECAUSE OF FACILITY LIMITATIONS, NO WEDDINGS WILL BE SCHEDULED AFTER 2:00 P.M. ON SATURDAY AND MUST BE CONCLUDED BY NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M.**
- The ceremony will begin at the scheduled time regardless of whether or not all of the wedding party is present. (Arrangements must be made ahead of time to make sure that all people in the wedding are present and on time.)
- **NO RICE or CONFETTI IS TO BE THROWN** inside our building or on the sidewalks or walkways around our building. This is permitted only in the parking lot. (None within 25 feet of the building.)
- **ONLY** dripless candles or electric candles may be used in our Chapel for your ceremony. You must place plastic under all candles and candelabras. Please pre-light all candles prior to your ceremony to make sure they will light during the ceremony.
- The wedding party assumes **TOTAL** responsibility for damages done to the building and/or property.
- We will not marry anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs of any kind, and will not permit anyone in the wedding party to participate in the ceremony if they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs of any kind.
- Since a wedding is a ceremony of a spiritual nature, we insist all people involved in the wedding conduct themselves in a serious and spiritual fashion out of reverence and respect for God. Pranks and jokes will not be permitted during the ceremony. Full cooperation is appreciated and will help make your ceremony a beautiful experience you'll remember and cherish for a lifetime. It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to convey this to those you have selected to be in your wedding.

3. THE RECEPTION

- All receptions held at Crossroads Christian Church shall be held in the Grand Hall.
- No food or drinks are allowed in any other part of our facilities except in the Grand Hall. Absolutely no alcohol or tobacco products are allowed on church property.
- If music is played (i.e., professional DJ, band or CDs) at the reception, it must be suitable for a church setting and in good taste. Exceptionally loud music or obscene lyrics are absolutely forbidden. Dancing is not permitted on church property.
- Off-site activities (i.e. games, speeches, non-alcoholic toasts, dancing) performed at the reception must be suitable for a church setting and in good taste.
- The wedding party must coordinate plans for the reception with a designated staff member or volunteer.
- Please do not expect the Pastor performing your ceremony to attend your reception (especially if it's being held at another facility other than on church grounds). He may wish to make a brief appearance, but we respectfully request that you not expect him to attend and stay for the entire reception.
- You are responsible for clean up following your reception. Arrangements should be made with those who help with your reception to make sure things are cleaned up afterwards.

4. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

First, read through the *Marriage Policy*, make sure you are in complete compliance with it and that you understand fully what is expected of you and your entire wedding party. Next, you must sign the form, complete the questionnaire, and turn them in to the administrative assistant along with a check for fees as stated. This reserves our facilities and guarantees the date you have requested. (Without a signed form and paid fees, we will not be able to schedule your wedding.)

FEES: (Must be turned in to the church office the day of scheduling your wedding.)

WEDDINGS:

(Note: You have the option of using our in-house wedding coordinator. The first fee listed below after each option is with the wedding coordinator / the second fee is without the wedding coordinator.)

OPTION A – Members (Chapel Only) \$380.00 / \$330.00

Fees must be paid to secure wedding date and time on church calendar
(Wedding fee includes use of facilities for rehearsal and ceremony, equipment and sound technician, janitorial services, required books, and CDs.
Honorariums for the pastor and musicians assisting you in your wedding are not included in this fee and are the responsibility of the wedding party.)

OPTION B – Non-Members (Chapel Only) \$480.00 / \$430.00

Fees must be paid to secure wedding date and time on church calendar
(Wedding fee includes use of facilities for rehearsal and ceremony, equipment and sound technician, janitorial services, required books, and CDs.
Honorariums for the pastor and musicians assisting you in your wedding are not included in this fee and are the responsibility of the wedding party.)

OPTION C – Members (Chapel and Grand Hall) \$735.00 / \$585.00

Fees must be paid to secure wedding date and time on church calendar
(Wedding fee includes use of facilities for rehearsal and ceremony, equipment and sound technician, janitorial services, required books, and CDs.
Honorariums for the pastor and musicians assisting you in your wedding are not included in this fee and are the responsibility of the wedding party.)

OPTION D – Non-Members (Chapel and Grand Hall) \$950.00 / \$800.00

Fees must be paid to secure wedding date and time on church calendar
(Wedding fee includes use of facilities for rehearsal and ceremony, equipment and sound technician, janitorial services, required books, and CDs.
Honorariums for the pastor and musicians assisting you in your wedding are not included in this fee and are the responsibility of the wedding party.)

OPTION E – Members - Off Site \$160.00

Fees must be paid to secure wedding date and time on church calendar
(Wedding fee includes required books and CDs and off-site wedding in the DFW metroplex. Honorariums for the pastor and musicians assisting you in your wedding are not included in this fee and are the responsibility of the wedding party.)

OPTION F – Non-Members - Off Site \$160.00

Fees must be paid to secure wedding date and time on church calendar
(Wedding fee includes required books and CDs and off-site wedding in the DFW metroplex. Honorariums for the pastor and musicians assisting you in your wedding are not included in this fee and are the responsibility of the wedding party.)

OPTION G – Members - Premarital Counseling Sessions Only \$160.00

(Fees include required books and CDs and must be paid prior to scheduling counseling sessions.)

OPTION H – Non-Members - Premarital Counseling Sessions Only \$160.00

(Fees include required books and CDs and must be paid prior to scheduling counseling sessions.)

RENEWAL CEREMONIES: No Charge

Renewal ceremonies consist of a simple restating of your vows with a small gathering of family and friends, lasting not more than ten minutes. If your ceremony is to be more elaborate than this, please refer to the wedding guidelines.
(Honorariums for the pastor and musicians assisting you in your renewal ceremony are your responsibility.)

MUSIC:

- Please direct all questions concerning music and musicians you would like at your wedding to our Minister of Music. He will advise you on available musicians, appropriate music and honorariums.
- A sound technician will be provided for your wedding to assist in setting up microphones or instruments that will be tied into the sound system. No one but members of our staff use this system so that it will not be damaged. Notify the sound technician of your selections so he can plan accordingly.

FLORIST INSTRUCTIONS:

- Florists should be notified that they are required to pick up wedding equipment as soon as possible following the ceremony.
- Plastic must be placed under all candles.

WEDDING FORM

We have read this entire Marriage Policy. We understand what is expected of us and are willing to comply fully with all of the expectations required of us and those in our wedding party.

Signed: _____ (Groom)

Printed name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signed: _____ (Bride)

Printed name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Today's date: _____

Date requested for wedding: _____

Time requested for wedding: _____

We have chosen:

Members:

- Option A \$380.00 \$330.00
- Option C \$735.00 \$585.00
- Option E \$160.00
- Option G \$160.00
- Renewal Ceremony No charge

Non-Members:

- Option B \$480.00 \$430.00
- Option D \$950.00 \$800.00
- Option F \$160.00
- Option H \$160.00

If your wedding is off site, please furnish us with the location of this facility:

— QUESTIONNAIRE FOR COUPLES PLANNING A WEDDING —
(Must be turned in with your wedding form and fees)

DATE RECEIVED: _____

- 1. We have read, understand, and will abide by the Crossroads Marriage Policy. Yes No
- 2. We are both believers, having accepted Christ as Savior of our lives. Yes No
- 3. We are presently living together or are involved in a physical relationship. Yes No
- 4. We are now expecting a child. Yes No
- 5. I/We have been divorced. Yes No
- 6. Having been married before, _____ months have elapsed since the divorce was final.
- 7. Our parents are happy with our choice and our wedding. Yes No
- 8. We understand Crossroads does not permit the use of alcohol or the practice of dancing on our church campus. Yes No
- 9. We are not under the influence of alcohol or drugs, nor will we be under the influence of alcohol or drugs at our wedding. Yes No
- 10. Another pastor has refused to marry us. If yes, who: _____
Phone: _____

Groom's Signature

Date _____

Bride's Signature

Date _____