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Congratulations!

We at Fellowship Bible Church are excited to be a part of your upcoming wedding! We want to do all we can to help make this special day memorable for you and glorifying to God.

This wedding guide should provide answers to many of your initial questions regarding our wedding policy at Fellowship. We encourage you to read the wedding guide initially, then again periodically as you continue planning and have questions. We hope that this will help you plan efficiently and effectively while remembering the goal is to unite you and your Groom in a godly marriage.

Our Wedding Director is available to help you begin, and also guide you through, the premarital and wedding process. She will assist you by connecting you to a Premarital Mentor Couple and also a FBC Wedding Coordinator. Your Wedding Coordinator will work with you during your wedding planning as well as on site at the rehearsal, wedding, and possibly your reception. Our goal is to serve you and your guests as we together celebrate God's grace in His provision of marriage.

If during the process of planning your wedding you encounter any difficulties that cannot be resolved to your satisfaction by our Wedding Director or Wedding Coordinators, please contact either Trish Monnahan or Jim Hudson, who give pastoral oversight to our wedding ministry.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of this special time as you begin your new life together in marriage.

Serving Christ,  
Mark, Ben, & Brandon

## OVERVIEW

At Fellowship Bible Church, we believe Scripture teaches that marriage is a life-long, covenantal relationship between a man and a woman. Scripture also teaches that a man and a woman must be biblically free to marry (equally yoked and, if previously divorced, no longer bound to a marriage covenant). Therefore, our facilities will only be made available for, and our Pastors may only officiate at, a wedding ceremony that is in keeping with Scripture. Please refer to the appendix (pgs. 20-25) for Fellowship's complete doctrinal statement on marriage. If you have any questions about whether you or your fiancé are biblically permitted to marry, we encourage you to contact Fellowship Bible Church and arrange to speak with one of our pastors.

In the following pages, you will find helpful information you need in making your decision to use our facility for this joyous event, as well as pricing, policies, procedures, sample vows, and much more. The first step in the process will be for you to complete the online Wedding/Premarital Mentoring Application found at: [www.fellowshiponline.com/weddings/](http://www.fellowshiponline.com/weddings/). Gina Brown, Director of Weddings, will then contact you with further guidance.

Please feel free to contact Gina with any questions @ 501-224-7171 or [gbrown@fellowshiponline.com](mailto:gbrown@fellowshiponline.com).

**Kindly note all necessary documents must be submitted before your event date/venue is finalized, however we are happy to hold your date while in process. Most forms will be given/discussed during premarital meeting:**

- **Wedding/Premarital Mentoring Application**
- **Couple's Commitment**
- **Premarital Couple Contact/Auth. to Release Information**
- **Purity Covenant**
- **Couple Checkup Report**
- **All About Me Forms**
- **FBC Event Agreement Form (pg. 44)**

## **Membership**

Facilities are available for weddings and receptions to active members of FBC, children of active members, or to non-members who are actively pursuing membership at FBC. All events must be scheduled through the Wedding Director.

- Couples must also complete the premarital preparation process at FBC.
  - Complete Required Forms and Read/Comply with FBC Wedding Guide.
  - Couples Complete “Couple Checkup” and “All About Me Forms” on FBC’s website [www.fellowshiponline.com/weddings/](http://www.fellowshiponline.com/weddings/), as well as go through four (4) premarital mentor meetings with a married FBC mentor couple.
  - It is highly recommended that couples attend the 8 week FBC NEARLY & NEWLY MARRIED Discipleship Class (offered in fall & spring). This can also be completed after the wedding, as well. It is acceptable if only one can attend.
- Adult children of FBC members may use the facilities for wedding ceremonies if at least one parent is an active member of FBC.
  - If a parent is not a member of FBC, then the individual desiring to be married must either be a member or actively pursuing membership.
  - In addition, the couple must either go through the FBC premarital process or will need to discuss their marriage preparation with the FBC Wedding Director.

## SCHEDULING

After submission of Wedding/Premarital Mentoring Application, the Wedding Director will discuss available event dates/times.

### ***Due to Ministry Planning:***

- Weddings (Chapel, 500 guests or less; Living Room, 20 guests or less) may not be scheduled more than 1 year in advance
- Receptions (Warehouse & North Plaza) may not be scheduled more than 1 year in advance.

### ***Wedding dates are unavailable during the following times:***

- Easter weekend
- Memorial Day weekend
- Independence Day (if it falls on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or Monday)
- Labor Day weekend
- Thanksgiving weekend
- Christmas
- New Year's

### ***Time Slots for Ceremony and Reception:***

The following time slots are allotted for the ceremony and reception (if applicable).

- Wedding Ceremony: Seven (7) hour time slot (includes decorating, photos, ceremony and decoration removal).
- Wedding Ceremony and On-Site Receptions: Seven (7) hour time slot for ceremony plus an additional 2 hours is provided for the reception (See "Sample Time Schedules" on following page).
- Additional decorating time may be requested but is subject to an additional fee of \$50 per hour and is also dependent on Coordinator approval/availability.

**Sample Time Schedules:****Ceremony Only (Chapel): 7 Hour Time Slot**

- Saturdays: You may choose a 7 hour time slot anywhere between 8am-8pm.
- Friday evenings: More information available upon request.

**Sample Chapel Time Slot**

3.5 Hours Decorating	1.5 Hour Pictures	.5 Hour Seating	1 Hour Ceremony	.5 Hour Decoration Removal
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Note: The above sample has proven to work well; however, you have flexibility within the time block to rearrange the order of pictures, seating and ceremony.

**Ceremony (Chapel) and On-Site Reception (Warehouse or North Plaza): 7 Hour (Chapel) + 2 extra Hours (Warehouse or North Plaza)****Sample Chapel Time Slot (same as above)**

3.5 Hours Decorating	1.5 Hour Pictures	.5 Hour Seating	1 Hour Ceremony	.5 Hour Decoration Removal
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**Sample Warehouse Time Slot (begins at same time as Chapel Time Slot above & ends 2 hours after)**

6.5 Hours Decorating & setup	2 Hour Reception	.5 Hour Decoration Removal
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Note: At the start of the Ceremony's 7 hour time slot (see above), you also have access to decorate/set-up the Warehouse or North Plaza for the Reception.

- Latest Time Slot for Ceremony and On-Site Reception:
  - Ceremony: 11a-6p
  - Reception: 11a-8p

## General Information and Guidelines

### The Chapel

- Four sections with a wide center aisle, two side aisles, and the stage is raised by four steps.
- Items available for use: grand piano, wrought iron kneeling bench, silver goblet & communion plate, wrought iron and glass top pub table (for communion or unity candle), 60" round table w/tablecloth for guest registry, and a 6' long table w/tablecloth for gift table.
- Seats up to 500 guests.
- Seven-hour time slot (includes decorating, photos, ceremony and decoration removal). Additional decorating time may be requested but is subject to an additional fee of \$50 per hour and is also dependent on Coordinator approval/availability.

### Receptions

- Nine-hour time slot (beginning at start of seven-hour time slot for ceremony and includes decorating/set-up, reception, and decoration/supply removal)).
- Receptions may be held in the Warehouse or the North Plaza.
  - Both are easily accessed by our Caterer's kitchen (included).
  - Food must arrive fully prepared and ready to serve.
- For a simple cake/punch reception, a volunteer point person may direct reception.
- If additional food is served, we ask (but certainly do not require) that a professional caterer be responsible at reception or that a point person be assigned by Bride/Groom (see pg.14).
- All plates, utensils, serving pieces, napkins, table coverings, etc. are not provided by FBC.
- Warehouse floor is carpet. Hard surface dance floor is not provided in Warehouse; but can be rented from, and set-up by, a rental company (must be removed by rental company immediately following reception)
- Tables/chairs are provided.

### Wedding Rehearsal

A rehearsal is required and is an actual walk-through of the entire wedding program by all the bridal party and families of the Bride and Groom.

- If possible, all wedding participants need to attend the rehearsal (including entire wedding party, ushers and immediate family).
- Participants are encouraged to arrive at least 15 minutes ahead of the scheduled start time.
- Typically lasts 1 hour.
- You may bring all props (candelabras, unity candle, pedestals, kneeling bench, arch, etc.) 1 hour before rehearsal start time. Delivery arrangements should be made with your florist and your Wedding Coordinator.
- If using programs in ceremony, please be sure to bring them to the rehearsal.
- Please notify Wedding Coordinator with any changes by the end of rehearsal.



## **FBC WEDDING/RECEPTION FEES**

### **FBC Wedding Fees ~ \$600:**

- Wedding Coordinator - \$400
- Audio-Visual Technician - \$200

### **FBC Reception Fees ~ \$450:**

- Facility Fee - \$300 (Warehouse or North Plaza)
- Wedding Coordinator - \$100
- Audio-Visual Technician - \$50

As a gift to you (or your parents) as members of our congregation, Fellowship provides the following free of charge:

- Use of the Chapel and rooms for your wedding
- Custodial services (before and after)

## Facility Guidelines

1. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on FBC's campus (including parking lot). This includes a champagne toast, as well.
2. Smoking is never permitted inside our facility or near entrances.
3. Decorating may begin at the start time of your specific time slot on Saturday (earliest time slot beginning time is 8am), with the exception of props being used at the rehearsal (see Wedding Rehearsal pg. 9). The latest time slot ending time is 8pm on Saturdays. Therefore, decorating and decoration removal is included in the time slot allowance (see Scheduling pgs. 7-8).
4. All delivery, set-up and removal times must be scheduled through your Wedding Coordinator.
5. Any request of a facility member must be done through your Wedding Coordinator.
6. Florists, rental companies, or designated helpers must clear all wedding décor immediately following ceremony. FBC cannot hold any items for Monday pick-up.
7. Caterers, florists, and reception servers are expected to clean up all areas (kitchen, reception room, etc.) and remove all decorations and rental equipment immediately following the reception (before end of given time slot).
8. We do not offer child care during weddings, nor can we offer the use of a room for children alone or with a sitter.
9. As the couple exits, we encourage the use of lavender, rose petals, potpourri or bubbles. Sparklers are permitted outside the building and Bride/Groom need to provide sand-filled buckets for sparkler disposal. Due to safety precautions, neither birdseed nor rice are permitted.
10. In exchange for FBC permitting use of its facilities, Bride/Groom hereby assumes all liability for, and shall indemnify, defend, protect, save and hold harmless FBC from and against any and all losses caused by or arising out of the negligence, gross negligence and/or willful misconduct of the Bride/Groom and respective guests and/or agents.
11. FBC disclaims all, responsibility and liability for the damage or loss of any items, effects, merchandise or articles on FBC's premises prior to, during or following the Event. FBC reserves the right to inspect and regulate all Events. Bride/Groom shall pay FBC for all damages incurred during the Event to the FBC premises, furniture, fixtures and equipment. Host has been informed of and understands the possibility of other FBC ministry events occurring on the wedding day. There may be other people or events on campus, but we will do our best to prevent any interference or distraction.

## Floral and Decorating Guidelines

Note: This is the Bride's responsibility to review these with the florist, and the florist's responsibility to abide by these guidelines. Please provide florist pgs. 37-38 and return page 38 with florist's signature.

1. FBC facilities will be made available for decorating at the beginning of the 7 hour time slot for the ceremony.
2. Candelabras, kneeling bench, arch, greenery, etc. may be delivered 1 hour prior to the rehearsal. Fresh flowers are recommended to be delivered the day of the wedding. The florist may contact the Wedding Coordinator to set up delivery time(s).
3. Decorating must be completed at least 1 hour before beginning of ceremony; however, plan on completion two hours before if you are having a "First Glance" or "Private Time" and Pre-Ceremony photos.
4. All floral and greenery preparations are to be made prior to arriving at the church.
5. No furnishings may be moved from designated platforms in each venue (Chapel or Warehouse).
6. No decorations may be placed on the grand piano.
7. No nails, staples, adhesives, or glue may be used to fasten any decorations to the furniture or building. Pew bows must be attached in a way that will not mar any furniture.
8. Only silk flower petals may be used in the aisles. Aisle runners may not be used for safety reasons.
9. Only dripless candles with candle holders designed to catch wax (preventing candle drippings from falling on the floor or furniture) are permitted. In addition, there must be fireproof material placed under all candles to protect carpeting.
10. The florist is responsible to see that the church property is clean regarding floral decor debris when decorating is complete.
11. The florist must remove all decorations and equipment immediately after the ceremony.
12. It is understood that seasonal decorations for Christmas and Easter will not be moved or removed for weddings. The florist may use or supplement these decorations for the wedding.
13. FBC, the Director of Weddings, and the Wedding Coordinator are not responsible for any loss or damage to equipment. They are also not responsible for anything left at the church by the florist.

## Photography/Videography Guidelines

Note: This is the Bride's responsibility to review these with the photographer/videographer, and the photographer/videographer's responsibility to abide by these guidelines. Please provide copy on page 41 in Appendix to photographer/videographer.

1. Pre-Ceremony Photos: FBC suggests, but certainly does not require, all photography be made prior to the ceremony. A special "Private Time" is recommended for the Bride and Groom and has been very popular with couples. This allows the Bride and Groom to privately see one another for the first time prior to the service. This shortens or eliminates the photography time after the ceremony and allows the couple to join their wedding guests sooner. More importantly, it allows the Bride and Groom to celebrate their wedding day privately before the festivities and have time to pray, to talk, and to share their feelings on this important and very hectic day. Photographers should plan their pre-ceremony photo shoot for no more than one and a half hours (allow an additional 15 minutes for "Private Time" photos) and must be completed 30 minutes prior to the start of the Ceremony.
2. If Post-Ceremony Photos are preferred, see "Sample Schedule Times" page (page 7) to note how the seven-hour time block could be re-ordered.
3. Pictures are permitted freely in the Chapel, Plaza, Bride's Room, Groom's Room, and outside areas prior to the ceremony, and as the Bride begins to walk down the aisle.
4. Because the wedding is a worship ceremony, we ask that the photographer/videographer be as unobtrusive as possible; and, also that he or she be dressed appropriately for a wedding.
5. Because movement during the ceremony can be distracting to you as well as guests, we encourage Bride/Groom to discuss with photographer/videographer if any movement is allowed along outside aisles near walls. Please inform the Wedding Coordinator before the Wedding Rehearsal of your arrangement with photographer/videographer.
6. Any on-stage equipment must be hidden by trees, greenery, candelabras, etc.
7. Please do not move nor stand on any furniture or accessories in the church.
8. Photographers may not use flash during the ceremony. Please limit shutter sounds.
9. Videographers must provide their own equipment and make use of existing lighting (no spotlights may be used). Your videographer is welcome to attend your rehearsal.

## Catering/Bakery/Food Point Person Guidelines

**Caterers, Bakeries, and/or point person assisting Bride must adhere to the following guidelines (Copy and agreement on pages 39-40):**

- **The caterer/bakery/point person must contact the Wedding Coordinator at least one month before the event to make arrangements for set-up.**
- Bring his /her own equipment and staff for serving and clean-up at the event (see below checklist).
- FBC provides custodial serve to assure clean, ready-to-use facilities.
- Food should be prepared off-site and delivered to the kitchen for the reception. Please be sure that cleanup is done and trash is left in appropriate containers.
- A refrigerator, 2 microwaves, and a warming oven are available in the kitchen.
- The caterer or designated party is responsible for any damage to property, equipment, carpets, etc. beyond reasonable wear.
- Nine-hour time slot (beginning at start of seven-hour time slot for ceremony and includes decorating/set-up, reception, and decoration/supply removal).
- Plates, utensils, serving pieces, napkins, table coverings, etc. are not provided by FBC.
- Tables/chairs are provided (including 60" round, 6' long, and café tables).
- Please provide Wedding Coordinator a floor plan of the desired table and chair arrangement at least two weeks before wedding.
- FBC kitchen coffee pots are available for use: however, coffee grounds and condiments are not provided by FBC.
- FBC will provide ice.

### **Cleaning Checklist:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Remove all decorations and personal items
- \_\_\_\_\_ Empty refrigerator
- \_\_\_\_\_ Empty coffeemaker filter baskets
- \_\_\_\_\_ Clean, dry and put away coffee pots
- \_\_\_\_\_ Return all items in the appropriate labeled areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Place all trash in appropriate containers

## **BEFORE THE WEDDING**

### ***Wedding Guide Meeting with Wedding Director (Required)***

A meeting time will also be set to go over the FBC Wedding Guide to ensure understanding and agreement on guidelines. This meeting may just be with the Bride and Wedding Director; however, the Groom is welcome to attend and/or anyone the Bride wishes to invite who is closely assisting in planning the wedding (mom, maid/matron of honor, friend, etc.).

### ***The Wedding Coordinator (Required)***

An FBC Wedding Coordinator will be assigned to you by the Wedding Director after approval and finalization of your wedding date reservation. Serving as your FBC liaison for your event, the Wedding Coordinator will be the main contact for any questions and assistance pertaining to your event. Your Coordinator will contact you to schedule your first meeting. She will help ensure that you have all areas covered, including: florists/decorations, time slot schedule/order, room layout, food etc.

### ***Specific services provided to you by the FBC Wedding Coordinator:***

- Meet with you to discuss and review all details and plans for the event at FBC
- Be your liaison during event at FBC
- Direct vendors and help with time management of the celebration

In addition, you are welcome to use an outside Wedding Planner, if you prefer. We would love to work with your Wedding Planner to ensure your day goes as smoothly as possible. If you choose to use a Wedding Planner, please provide the Wedding Director with the name and contact number so she may contact her directly to clarify each person's (Planner/FBC Coordinator) role/responsibilities during the event(s) at FBC.

## **Marriage License (Required)**

To view current official requirements, please consult Pulaski County Marriage License InfoSheet:

- [www.pulaskiclerk.com](http://www.pulaskiclerk.com)
- <click> Services
- <click> Marriage License (or use this link) <http://www.pulaskiclerk.com/en/services/marriage-license/>
- <scroll down and click> Marriage License Infosheet

### **MARRIAGE LICENSE INFOSHEET SCHEDULE**

(taken from above website 11/2016)

Both male and female applicants must be present and together when license is issued. A Power of Attorney is not acceptable under any circumstances.

Licenses are issued Monday thru Friday, from 8:00am-5:00pm.

FEE The fee for a marriage license is \$60.00 cash or credit card only (no checks). No refunds will be issued.

### **LEGAL AGE TO MARRY**

Males and females shall reach the age of 18 years to contract for a marriage license in Arkansas without parental consent.

### **LEGAL DOCUMENTATION ON NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH**

Males and females 18 or older must present a valid government issued photo identification showing their correct name and date of birth; such as a driver's license, passport or military identification.

If a female's name has changed through a divorce and her photo identification does not reflect this change, she will need a certified copy of her divorce decree, and the decree must state that her name has been restored to her maiden name.

### **MARRIAGE LICENSE VALID FOR SIXTY (60) DAYS**

The marriage license must be returned to our office for recordation, whether used or unused, within 60 days of issuance.

### **COMMON QUESTIONS ASKED WHEN APPLYING FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE**

Is a blood test required? No.

Is there a waiting period? There is a five business day waiting period for all underage (under 18 years of age) applicants for marriage licenses.

Is there a waiting period after a divorce is final? No.

Do you have to be a resident of the State of Arkansas? No.

FOR MINISTERS The minister's credentials must be recorded with a County Clerk's Office in the State of Arkansas prior to a wedding ceremony.

Location:

Pulaski County Courthouse Circuit/County Clerk's Office  
401 W Markham  
Suite 100  
Little Rock, AR 72201-2659

Phone: 501-340-8330

## **THE WEDDING CEREMONY**

### ***The Officiating Pastor***

Whenever possible, we encourage you to select a Pastor with whom you have a personal relationship. We have several Pastors at FBC, in addition to our Teaching Pastors, who are available to officiate your wedding. Please feel free to contact a specific FBC Pastor by calling FBC @ 501.224.7171 to speak with the Pastor you want to request or you can ask a receptionist for his e-mail address. You may also contact the FBC Wedding Director, if you need further assistance.

Pastors from outside of FBC with whom you have a prior relationship are welcome to officiate ceremonies at FBC; however, he must fill out an Outside Officiant Form (page 42), and be approved by the FBC Premarital Pastor. Please discuss this option with the FBC Wedding Director as soon as possible so we may begin the approval process. Kindly note, FBC adheres to 1 Timothy 2:12 regarding the use of female officiants.

FBC wants to love and support you well in this process; therefore, if there are concerns about the potential health of the marriage, difficult conversations will be had with the couple. This could result in FBC's decision to not move ahead with the wedding.

### ***The Service***

For a document outlining Order of Ceremony, see page 26 in the Appendix for samples couples may review together. The Wedding Coordinator and the Officiating Pastor will be able to help you establish your ceremony's order and answer any questions you might have.



## **Vows**

The wedding vows provide the opportunity for the two of you in the ceremony to express your lifelong commitment to one another. For samples, please see Appendix pgs. 27-30.

If you choose to write your own vows, you will be asked to submit them to your Officiating Pastor one week prior to your wedding date so that he may review them before they are read publicly. Please let your Officiating Pastor know which option you choose.

## ***Wedding Scriptures for Reading***

You are encouraged to choose the readings for your wedding. A suggested Scripture reading list is located in the Appendix on pgs. 31-36. The Officiating Pastor and/or Wedding Coordinator will assist you in placing your reading(s) at the proper place(s) in the ceremony.

# APPENDIX



## MARRIAGE STATEMENT

### STATEMENT

God designed marriage, during the act of creation, as one way to help reflect His image and glorify Himself. Although not everyone is called to be married<sup>1</sup>, for those that are, marriage is a unique calling to a lifelong covenant relationship between one man, one woman, and God<sup>2</sup>. God recognized it was not good for man to be alone and as a result, He formed woman from man. God presided over the first marriage, by presenting Eve as the first bride, to her husband Adam<sup>3</sup>. In the covenant of marriage, God is joining a man to his wife, and they become one flesh<sup>4</sup>.

Not only are man and woman created in the image of God<sup>5</sup>, they are both co-heirs of the grace demonstrated through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ<sup>6</sup>. As a result, they are equal in value in God's eyes, yet have been uniquely designed to fulfill different roles within a marriage. A husband is called to sacrificially love his wife, as Christ loved the church, sanctifying her in the word and putting her needs above his own. A wife is called to respectfully submit to the servant leadership of her husband, as she ultimately serves the Lord<sup>7</sup>. As husbands and wives walk in these uniquely created roles, they glorify God and reflect the relationship between Jesus Christ and His church to the world around them<sup>8</sup>.

### SCRIPTURE

*4 "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."*

**Matthew 19: 4-6**

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor 7:6-9

<sup>2</sup> Matt 19:4-6

<sup>3</sup> Gen 2:18-25

<sup>4</sup> Gen 2:24

<sup>5</sup> Gen 1:26-27

<sup>6</sup> 1 Pet 3:7

<sup>7</sup> Eph 5:22-30

<sup>8</sup> Eph 5:31-33

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## MARRIAGE STATEMENT

### SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES

*6 Now as a concession, not a command, I say this. 7 I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. 8 To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am. 9 But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.* **1 Corinthians 7:6-9**

*18 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." 19 Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.* **Genesis 2:18-25 (ESV)**

*26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.* **Genesis 1:26-27 (ESV)**

*22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold*

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## MARRIAGE STATEMENT

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*fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

***Ephesians 5:22-33 (ESV)***

*7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.*

***1 Peter 3:7(ESV)***



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## MARRIAGE STATEMENT

### APPLICATION POINTS

#### Unequally Yoked

We are bombarded with messages every day from our culture about what love is and how we should follow our hearts in relationships, dating, and who we ultimately seek to marry. The emphasis is on compatibility, attraction, and emotion, and if these components are present then a couple is assured that they are made for each other. Unfortunately, just because a couple is free to marry, according to state and local laws, and meets the cultures standard of being in love, it may not be prudent for them to marry. God's Word tells us to look beyond emotion and the world's definition of compatible. Christians are called to "not be unequally yoked with unbelievers."<sup>9</sup> This paints the picture of two animals being yoked together in the context of pulling a load or plowing a field. If a bull and a mule are yoked together, their two different designs and strengths will result in an unbalanced load and difficulty keeping things moving in the right direction. The verse continues on to ask, "what fellowship has light with darkness?" No matter our beliefs, we all choose to follow something in our lives. As Christians, we devote our lives to following Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. An unbeliever may be a "good" person, but the guiding force in their life is going to be something other than Jesus. Since marriage is a covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and God, it is also not feasible to join in covenant with someone who does not recognize the authority of God to bind the couple together and sustain them in their marriage. As a result of God's clear instructions in His word, a Christian should not seek to enter into a marriage relationship with someone who is not also a believer. The best way for a couple to explore their biblical compatibility to marry and lay a solid foundation for a lifetime together, is by seeking Godly premarital counseling.

#### Singleness

Often times, churches work so hard to speak to the calling and ministry of marriage that Christians who are single can begin to wonder if deep down, God wishes everyone were married. Not only that, but how we understand God's command to Adam and Eve to "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it,"<sup>10</sup> in the garden also can lead to single Christians wondering if they are somehow disobeying God's original command as well as lead married Christians to a sense of self-righteousness, though not in a marriage in line with the Gospel. But Jesus is clear that there can be an equal call to God glorifying singleness in the New Covenant as there is to marriage<sup>11</sup>. Not only that, but Jesus makes statements to the Sadducees

<sup>9</sup> 2 Corin 6:14-16

<sup>10</sup> Gen 1:28

<sup>11</sup> Matt 19:11-12

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## MARRIAGE STATEMENT

that marriage is an earthly institution that is not necessarily reflected in the post resurrection Kingdom of God<sup>12</sup>. In the Garden of Eden, physical reproduction and spiritual reproduction were one in the same. Had Adam and Eve not sinned in the garden, their children would have been born children of God, in an intimate relationship with Him. But under the fall, humans must be born physically, and born “again” spiritually<sup>13</sup>. Therefore, Jesus, “the new Adam,” commands his disciples to be fruitful and multiply by making disciples of those who have been physically born, but not spiritually born again. Under this command, there is plenty of room for single people to be fruitful and multiply, filling the earth with people who reflect the full image of God on the earth. In fact, Paul references the reality that the ministry of marriage can actually be a distraction at times to the calling to fill the earth with disciples. And although he believes in the ministry of marriage<sup>14</sup> he expresses his joy in being free to make disciples unhindered by the competing ministry of marriage and wishes that everyone could experience that freedom as well<sup>15</sup>. Marriage is a calling that honors God. Singleness is a calling that honors God. Neither is preferred. Neither is better or worse. Both can spiritually multiply. Both can fill the earth with people who fully reflect the image of God. As such, there is no position in the church that should have marriage as a requirement attached to it, and those living in line with the Gospel should celebrate people called to singleness every bit as much as those called to be married.

### “Same-Sex Marriage”

The issue of “same-sex marriage” is one of the most emotionally charged and divisive issues facing our country and the Christian church. Too often the Christian church in America has been unloving in its words to the homosexual community. Moreover, heterosexual Christians have often been hypocritical, proclaiming the sanctity of marriage to homosexuals yet simultaneously divorcing their spouses at the same rate as nonbelievers. For these sins we in the church must repent and cry out to the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, we must also affirm that it is not for any person – Christian, non-Christian, straight person, homosexual or any government official – to define what marriage is and who may marry. Since marriage is from God, He alone defines it.

The primary argument made in favor of “homosexual marriage” is that someone should be allowed to marry whomever they say they love. This view actually makes sense if marriage is about us and what we want. But while marriage is for us, it is not primarily about us or what we want. God created marriage for His purposes and throughout Scripture He imposes boundaries on sex and marriage that run counter

<sup>12</sup> Matt 22:29-32

<sup>13</sup> John 3:1-15

<sup>14</sup> Eph 5:22-33

<sup>15</sup> 1 Corin 7:32-28

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to the will of the prevailing culture, be it the Roman Empire of the 1<sup>st</sup> century or the U.S. in the 21<sup>st</sup> century<sup>16</sup>. Because God is the sovereign creator of marriage, it would be the ultimate act of pride for us to redefine what He made<sup>17</sup>. Therefore, we live in glad submission to what Jesus Christ himself taught about marriage: "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."<sup>18</sup> Clearly this means that marriage is between a man and a woman in a lifelong, covenantal relationship.

As we engage with the homosexual community on the issue of marriage and other issues, we pray that our Lord will grace us with a spirit of humility as ambassadors of the Gospel through whom God is making His appeal to reconcile a broken world unto himself.

### Co-habitation

About 60% of married couples live together before they get married. Many people justify their choice to cohabit based on finances, lifestyle choices, and the view that they are "committed" to one another. But the marriage covenant, not cohabitation, is God's perfect plan for men and women to physically, emotionally, and spiritually relate to one another.

Marriage is an irrevocable, lifelong promise between a man and a woman and to God that they will "hold fast to" one another<sup>19</sup> in dependence on God's sustaining grace and in spite of the difficulties of the relationship. The marriage covenant symbolizes God's covenant-keeping relationship with us, that He is faithful to us in spite of what it costs Him<sup>20</sup>. Cohabitation dishonors God's plans for man and woman by seeking the transitory benefits of marriage (economic, sexual) apart from its covenantal obligations. This makes the desires of the man and woman the center of the relationship, not God's glory. Cohabitation also creates an environment of ongoing temptation for (if not actual) adulterous sexual union. This, too, dishonors God and distorts the role of sex from God's intended purposes.

<sup>16</sup> Matt 19:7-9, I Corinth 6:18

<sup>17</sup> Isa 55:8

<sup>18</sup> Matt 19:4-6

<sup>19</sup> Gen 2:24, Matt 19:6

<sup>20</sup> Eph 5:22-23

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## CEREMONY SUGGESTIONS & SAMPLES

### Sample Order of Ceremony (A)

#### Prelude

Music while guests are being seated  
Seating of guests  
Seating of grandparents  
Seating of parents  
Solo  
Scripture Readings

#### Processional

Enter pastor, Groom, Grooms men  
Bridesmaids  
Flower girl  
Bride & father

#### Ceremony

Welcome/Prayer  
Giving away  
Opening Remarks  
Parental Appreciation  
Message to Bride and Groom  
Solo  
Reading of Scripture  
Declaration of Intent  
Marriage Vows  
Exchange of Rings  
Communion  
Unity Candle  
Prayer  
Pronouncement  
Nuptial Kiss  
Presentation of Newlyweds

#### Recessional

Bride & Groom  
Flower girl, ring bearer  
Bridesmaids/Groomsmen  
Parents  
Grandparents

Announcements, invitation by pastor to reception, and dismissal of guests.

### Sample Order of Ceremony (B)

#### Prelude

Music while guests are being seated  
Seating of guests  
Seating of grandparents  
Seating of parents

#### Processional

Enter pastor, Groom, Grooms men  
Bridesmaids  
Flower girl  
Bride & Father

#### Ceremony

Welcome/Prayer  
Giving away  
Opening Remarks  
Parental Appreciation  
Solo  
Message to Bride and Groom  
Reading of Scripture  
Declaration of Intent  
Marriage Vows  
Exchange of rings  
Communion  
Prayer  
Pronouncement Nuptial Kiss  
Presentation of Newlyweds

#### Recessional

Bride & Groom  
Bridesmaids/Groomsmen  
Parents

Invitation by pastor to reception and dismissal of guests.

## **VOW OPTIONS**

### **Public Declaration of Intent**

#### **Option A**

You, \_\_\_\_\_ and you, \_\_\_\_\_, having come to me signifying your desire to be formally united in marriage, and being assured that no legal, moral, or religious barriers hinder this proper union, I ask you to join hands and give heed to the questions now asked you.

Pastor turns to Groom and says – \_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman to be your wife, and will you pledge your faithfulness to her, in all love and honor, in all duty and service, in all faith and tenderness, to live with her and to cherish her according to the ordinance of God in the holy bond of marriage?

Answer: *I will.*

Pastor turns to Bride and says – \_\_\_\_\_, will you have this man to be your husband, and will you pledge your faithfulness to him, in all love and honor, in all duty and service, in all faith and tenderness, to live with him and cherish him according to the ordinance of God, in the holy bond of marriage?

Answer: *I will.*

#### **Option B**

Pastor turns to Groom and says - \_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman to be your wife, to live together according to God's ordinance, united to one and committed to each other in the holy bond of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, pledge your faithfulness to her, as long as you both shall live?

Answer: *I will.*

Pastor turns to Bride and says - \_\_\_\_\_, will you have this man to be your husband, to live together according to God's ordinance, united to one and committed to each other in the holy bond of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, pledge your faithfulness to him, as long as you both shall live?

Answer: *I will.*

## Personal Vows

### Option 1

Pastor turns to Groom and says: \_\_\_\_\_, I now ask you to repeat after me the following vow: I, \_\_\_\_\_, in the presence of God and these witnesses / take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife, / I will love you, / honor you / and cherish you. / I will keep this bond of wedlock / holy and unbroken /pledging you my faithfulness in every duty, / not to part from you till death do us part. / In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. / Amen

Pastor turns to Bride and says: \_\_\_\_\_, I now ask you to repeat after me the following vow: I, \_\_\_\_\_, in the presence of God and these witnesses / take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband, / I will love you, / honor you / and cherish you. / I will keep this bond of wedlock / holy and unbroken / pledging you my faithfulness in every duty, / not to part from you till death do us part. / In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. / Amen

### Option 2

I, \_\_\_\_\_, by the choice of God and the choice of my heart / take thee, \_\_\_\_\_, / 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 do us part. / In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. / Amen

I, \_\_\_\_\_, by the choice of God and the choice of my heart / take thee, \_\_\_\_\_, / 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 do us part. / In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. / Amen

### Option 3

\_\_\_\_\_, / in you God has given me/ a truly beautiful person./ I promise to encourage you/ to use your God-given gifts/ so that others may see His glory through you./ I pledge to you my deepest love,/ fullest devotion/ and my most tender care./ I promise to love you as Christ loves the church,/ to be a sacrificial and faithful husband,/ to express my love in service to your needs at all times./ To combat the “dailyness of marriage”/ by the focus to our eternal life together./ I promise to direct and lead our lives/ into a life of faith and obedience in Jesus Christ./ It is with great joy/ that I receive you into my life/ that we may now be one in our ministry for God/ for as long as we both shall live.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ / take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband./ Through God,/ I will strive to meet your needs./ I promise to be a loving and supportive wife,/ to honor and respect you,/ to joyfully submit to you as unto the Lord./ I promise to physically,/ emotionally/ and spiritually/ respond to your leading toward oneness in our relationship./ I promise my love,/ friendship/ and faithfulness to you/ as long as we both shall live.

#### Option 4

I, \_\_\_\_\_, in the presence of God and these witnesses/ take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife./ I will love you,/ honor you,/ and cherish you./ I will keep this bond of wedlock/ holy and unbroken/ pledging you my faithfulness in every duty,/ not to part from you till death do us part./ In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit./ Amen

I, in the presence of God and these witnesses/ take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband / I will love you,/ honor you,/ and cherish you./ I will keep this bond of wedlock/ holy and unbroken / pledging you my faithfulness in every duty,/ not to part from you till death do us part./ In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit./ Amen

#### Option 5

With great joy,/ I, \_\_\_\_\_, receive you, \_\_\_\_\_/ as a gift from God/ that together we may be one in love/ and one in our ministry for Jesus Christ./ I pledge to you—my protection,/ my deepest love,/my unselfish devotion,/ and my most tender care./ But most importantly,/ I promise to put Jesus Christ at the center of our marriage/ and I promise to direct our lives/ through the power of the Holy Spirit/ by honoring His Word/ and praying continually./ As Christ is to His body, the church,/ so I will be to you/ a faithful and sacrificial husband./ My love and friendship is committed to you/ for as long as we both shall live./ Therefore, today,/ I, \_\_\_\_\_ take you \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife.

\_\_\_\_\_, because I believe God has led us together/ and know only in Him are we made one,/ I pledge to you my deepest love/ and unselfish devotion./ As I have committed my life to the Lord,/ so I commit myself to you./ I promise to continue in my walk with God,/ honoring His word/ and developing the beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit./ I will encourage you,/ pray for you,/ and always seek to be a helper to you/ as we minister together for Jesus Christ./ With confidence,/ I submit myself to your loving leadership/ as unto Christ./ Through the power of the Holy Spirit,/ I will honor you,/ respect you/ and cherish you./ I will keep this bond of marriage holy and unbroken./ Therefore,/ with sincerity of heart/and reverence for the Lord,/ I pledge to you my life/ till death do us part.

**Option 6**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife./ I promise before God and these witnesses/to be faithful to you as your husband,/ to share with you in riches and poverty,/ in joy and sorrow,/ in sickness and in health,/ to forgive and strengthen you./ I promise to direct our lives into a life of faith in Christ,/ honoring God's guidance by His Spirit through His Word./ I promise to recognize the abilities, strengths, and gifts God has given you/ and encourage you to use them to His greatest possible glory./ I promise to move toward you with kindness, compassion and gentleness/ reflecting your continual relationship with God, your Heavenly Father./ With deepest joy I receive you into my life,/ that together we may be one in love and one in our ministry for God./ As Christ is to His body, the church,/ so I will be to you/ a faithful and sacrificial husband./ My love and friendship is committed to you/ for as long as we both shall live./ My desire before the Lord/ is to present you without spot or wrinkle,/ holy and blameless when we see Him.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, / take you, \_\_\_\_\_, / to be my wedded husband./ I love you, \_\_\_\_\_, because you first loved me./ I receive you, \_\_\_\_\_, as a miraculous provision from God/ and as God's gentle touch/ to craft me into the character of Christ, His Son./ As I have committed my life to the Lord/ so I commit myself to you./ I promise to physically, emotionally, and spiritually respond to your leading/toward oneness in our relationship./ I will honor you,/ esteem and respect you,/ joyfully submit to you as unto the Lord./ I promise to honor God's Word,/ pray continually/ and obey His call to minister as one with you./ I pledge my faithfulness and loyalty to you./ I accept and love you as you are./ I covenant to forgive you and encourage you./ Desiring to be a worthy wife,/ I will do you good and not evil,/ all the days of my life./ I am thankful that God has given us each other/ and look forward to a life together/loving and learning,/ laughing and crying,/ working and playing,/ dreaming and risking/ and following the Lord.

**Option 7**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, receive you \_\_\_\_\_, as a miraculous provision from God./ I promise to be a loving and faithful husband/ and to love you as Christ does the church,/ to seek to live with you in an understanding way,/ to honor His Word,/ to pray continually,/ and to live in the power of His Spirit./ I pledge to you my protection,/ my deepest love,/ my fullest devotion,/ and my most tender care./ I take you 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 do us part,/ according to God's holy ordinance,/ and thereto I pledge you my faith.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, receive you \_\_\_\_\_, as a miraculous provision from God./ I promise to be a loving and supportive wife,/ to honor and respect you,/ to joyfully submit to you as unto the Lord./ I promise to be one with you and to follow your leadership./ I promise to honor God's Word,/ pray continually,/ and live in the power of His Spirit./ I pledge to go where you go,/ lodge where you lodge;/ your people shall be my people,/ and your God shall be my God./ I take you 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 do us part,/ according to God's holy ordinance/ and thereto I pledge you my faith.

## **SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS** (all listed in English Standard Version)

### ***Old Testament:***

#### **Genesis 2:18-24**

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him. Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature that was its name. The man gave names to all the livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

#### **Ruth 1:16-17**

But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God my God. <sup>17</sup>Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you."

#### **Isaiah 55:12-13**

For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

#### **Isaiah 63:7**

I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

#### **Psalms 33**

Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds. The

king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

### **Psalm 34:1-3**

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

### **Psalm 67**

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

### **Psalm 100**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are His; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

### **Psalm 150**

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

### **Proverbs 18:22**

He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.

### **Song of Solomon 2:10-13**

My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away, for behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

**New Testament:****Matthew 5:13-16**

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

**Matthew 7:24-27**

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

**Matthew 19:4-6**

He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

**Mark 10:6-9**

But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let not man separate.

**John 15:9-15**

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this that someone lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.



**Romans 12:9-18**

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

**I Corinthians 13:1-8**

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

**Galatians 5:22-23**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

**Galatians 6:2**

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

**Ephesians 3:1 7b-20**

...that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us...

**Ephesians 4:1-6, 20-32**

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

But that is not the way you learned Christ! — assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

### **Ephesians 5:21-33**

...submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

### **Philippians 2:1-4**

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

### **Colossians 3:12-17**

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### **Hebrews 13:4-6**

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

### **I Peter 4:8**

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

### **I John 3:18**

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

### **I John 4:7-12**

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

## FLORAL / DÉCOR GUIDELINES

**Please make sure your florist is aware of and has a copy of these guidelines. The decorator/florist must sign and return the attached agreement at least one month before the event.**

1. FBC facilities will be made available for decorating at the beginning of the seven-hour time slot for the ceremony.
2. Candelabras, kneeling bench, arch, greenery, etc. may be delivered 1 hour prior to the rehearsal. Fresh flowers are recommended to be delivered the day of the wedding. The florist may contact the Wedding Coordinator to set up delivery time.
3. Decorating must be completed at least one hour before beginning of ceremony; however, plan on completion two hours before if you are having a “First Glance” or “Private Time” and Pre-Ceremony photos.
4. All floral and greenery preparations are to be made prior to arriving at the church.
5. No furnishings may be moved from designated platforms in each venue (Chapel or Warehouse).
6. No decorations may be placed on the grand piano.
7. No nails, staples, adhesives, or glue may be used to fasten any decorations to the furniture or building. Pew bows must be attached in a way that will not mar any furniture.
8. Only silk flower petals may be used in the aisles. Aisle runners may not be used for safety reasons.
9. Only dripless candles with candle holders designed to catch wax (preventing candle drippings from falling on the floor or furniture) are permitted. In addition, there must be fireproof material placed under all candles to protect carpeting.
10. The florist is responsible to see that the church property is clean regarding floral decor debris when decorating is complete.
11. The florist must remove all decorations and equipment immediately after the ceremony.
12. It is understood that seasonal decorations for Christmas and Easter will not be moved or removed for weddings. The florist may use or supplement these decorations for the wedding.
13. FBC, the Director of Weddings, and the Wedding Coordinator are not responsible for any loss or damage to equipment and; also, not responsible for anything left at the church by the florist.

## FLORAL / DÉCOR GUIDELINES AND AGREEMENT

Bride & Groom:	Event Date:  Time Slot:  Ceremony Start Time:
FBC Wedding Coordinator:	Phone:
Vendor:	Phone:

Thank you for helping to make this a joyous occasion. We ask that you read, sign, and return this agreement at least one month prior to the event. If you have questions or need assistance, please call the FBC Wedding Coordinator. The guidelines are furnished so that we may work together as smoothly as possible:

Please read the Floral/Décor guidelines and return signed Agreement to FBC Wedding Director one month prior to event.

Acceptance:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vendor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wedding Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please make a copy for your records and return this signed form at least one month before the event to:** Fellowship Bible Church, Attn: Wedding Director, PO Box 7123, Little Rock, AR 72211

## CATERER / BAKERY/ FOOD POINT PERSON GUIDELINES

Please make sure your caterer/bakery/point person is aware of and has a copy of these guidelines. If Bride/Groom utilize a point person rather than a caterer, then a designated responsible party must read, sign, and return the attached agreement and guidelines. Caterers and Bakers only need to sign agreement one time and provide proof of insurance, along with a business card which will be kept on file at FBC.

Caterers/bakeries/point person must adhere to the following guidelines:

- **The caterer/bakery/point person must contact the Wedding Coordinator at least one month before the event to make arrangements for set-up.**
- Bring his /her own equipment and staff for serving and clean-up at the event (see below checklist).
- FBC provides custodial serve to assure clean, ready-to-use facilities.
- Food should be prepared off-site and delivered to the kitchen for the reception. Please be sure that clean-up is done and trash is left in appropriate containers.
- A refrigerator, 2 microwaves, and a warming oven are available in the kitchen.
- The caterer or designated party is responsible for any damage to property, equipment, carpets, etc. beyond reasonable wear.
- Nine-hour time slot (beginning at start of seven-hour time slot for ceremony and includes decorating/set-up, reception, and decoration/supply removal).
- Plates, utensils, serving pieces, napkins, table coverings, etc. are not provided by FBC.
- Tables/chairs are provided (including 60" round, 6' long, and café tables).
- Please provide Wedding Coordinator a floor plan of the desired table and chair arrangement at least two weeks before wedding.
- FBC kitchen coffee pots are available for use: however, coffee grounds and condiments are not provided by FBC.
- FBC will provide ice.

### Cleaning Checklist:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Remove all decorations and personal items
- \_\_\_\_\_ Empty refrigerator
- \_\_\_\_\_ Empty coffeemaker filter baskets
- \_\_\_\_\_ Clean, dry and put away coffee pots
- \_\_\_\_\_ Return all items in the appropriate labeled areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Place all trash in appropriate containers

## RESPONSIBLE PARTY GUIDELINES AND AGREEMENT

We ask that you please read, sign, and return this agreement demonstrating that you have received and agree to the attached “Caterer/ Bakery/ Food Point Person” guidelines. If you have questions or need assistance, please call the FBC Wedding Director at 501.224.7171.

Acceptance:

_____	_____
<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Wedding Director</b>
_____	_____
<b>Date</b>	<b>Date</b>

**Please make a copy for your records and return this signed form at least one month before the event to:** Fellowship Bible Church, Attn: Wedding Director, PO Box 7123, Little Rock, AR 72223

## PHOTOGRAPHER / VIDEOGRAPHER GUIDELINES

**Please give your photographer and/or videographer a copy of these guidelines. We believe marriage is a great gift from the Lord, given to us in order to put His greatness on display for the world. The majority of couples want to remember this great day with photos and/or videos. We ask that all Photographers and Videographers respect the guidelines below:**

1. Pre-Ceremony Photos: FBC suggests, but certainly does not require, all photography be made prior to the ceremony. A special “Private Time” is recommended for the Bride and Groom and has been very popular with couples. This allows the Bride and Groom to privately see one another for the first time prior to the service. This shortens or eliminates the photography time after the ceremony and allows the bridal couple to join their wedding guests sooner. More importantly, it allows the Bride and Groom to celebrate their wedding day privately before the festivities and have time to pray, to talk, and to share their feelings on this important and very hectic day. Photographers should plan their pre-ceremony photo shoot for no more than one and a half hours (allow an additional 15 minutes for “Private Time” photos) and must be completed 30 minutes prior to the start of the Ceremony.
2. If Post-Ceremony Photos are preferred, see “Sample Schedule Times” page (page 6) to note how the 7 hour time block could be re-ordered.
3. Pictures are permitted freely in the Chapel, Plaza, Bride’s Room, Groom’s Room, and outside areas prior to the ceremony, and as the Bride begins to walk down the aisle.
4. Because the wedding is a worship ceremony, we ask that the photographer/videographer be as unobtrusive as possible, and also that he or she be dressed appropriately for a wedding.
5. Because movement during the ceremony can be distracting to you as well as guests, we encourage Bride/Groom to discuss with photographer/videographer if any movement is allowed along outside aisles near walls. Please inform the Wedding Coordinator before the Wedding Rehearsal of your arrangement with photographer/videographer.
6. Any on-stage equipment must be hidden by trees, greenery, candelabras, etc.
7. Please do not move nor stand on any furniture or accessories in the church.
8. Photographers may not use flash during the ceremony. Please limit shutter sounds.
9. Videographers must provide their own equipment and make use of existing lighting (no spotlights may be used). Your videographer is welcome to attend your rehearsal.



## OUTSIDE OFFICIANT FORM

(Please Print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Church or Ministry: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone of church/ministry: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Your services have been requested by (please list the names of both Bride and Groom)

\_\_\_\_\_ to

officiate their wedding at Fellowship Bible Church, Little Rock, AR.

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

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide your Arkansas Ministerial License information:**

County \_\_\_\_\_ Book \_\_\_\_\_ Page # \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Note: If you are not registered in Arkansas, you must do so before the wedding date.**

Pulaski County Courthouse Circuit/County Clerk's Office  
401 W. Markham  
Suite 100  
Little Rock, AR 72201-2659  
Phone: 501-340-8330  
Website: pulaskiclerk.com  
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm

*In order to help us respond to this request, please read the attached Statement of Belief for Wedding Officiants. If in agreement, please sign below and kindly return this form to Fellowship Bible Church.*

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail this completed form at least one month before the event to:**

Fellowship Bible Church, Attn: Wedding Director, PO Box 7123, Little Rock, AR 72223

Note: You may also scan and e-mail to [gbrown@fellowshiponline.com](mailto:gbrown@fellowshiponline.com)

## **STATEMENT OF BELIEF FOR WEDDING OFFICIANTS**

We believe the Bible is the written word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit and without error in the original manuscripts. The Bible is the revelation of God's truth and is infallible and authoritative in all matters of faith and practice.

We believe in the Holy Trinity. There is one God, who exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit who is of the same substance and equal in power and glory.

We believe that by the one man, Adam, sin entered the world, and thereby resulted in mankind being totally depraved by nature and unable to save himself from God's wrath.

We believe that salvation is by God alone as He sovereignly chooses those He will save. We believe His choice is based on His grace, not on any human individual merit, or foreseen faith.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, and is fully divine. At the incarnation He took a real human nature so that from the incarnation on He is fully God and fully man. Jesus was born of a true virgin, lived a sinless life, died as a substitute for the sins of His people, rose again bodily from the grave on the third day, and ascended into heaven.

We believe that Jesus Christ's sacrificial death for atonement of sin and His perfect life (righteousness), which is imputed to the justified, are the sole bases for justification and that God declares sinners justified through the gift of faith. Sinners are saved on the merits of Christ alone.

We believe that God is gracious and faithful to His people not simply as individuals but as families in successive generations according to His Covenant promises.

We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells God's people and gives them the strength and wisdom to trust Christ and follow Him.

We believe that Jesus will return, bodily and visibly, to judge all mankind and to receive His people to Himself.

We believe that all aspects of our lives are to be lived to the glory of God under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

We believe Scripture teaches that marriage is a life-long, covenantal relationship between a man and a woman. Scripture also teaches that a man and a woman must be biblically free to marry (equally yoked and, if previously divorced, no longer bound to a marriage covenant).

## FBC EVENT AGREEMENT

Bride / Groom:	Event Date:
Phone:	Alternate Phone:
FBC Wedding Director:	Phone: (501) 224-7171

FBC is happy to assist you in creating a worshipful atmosphere for the Event. This Agreement is entered into by you and FBC. The policies in this document are furnished so that we may work together as seamlessly as possible: By signing this Agreement, you understand and will adhere to all FBC Event policies as outlined in this document and pay all related FBC fees. If you have questions or need assistance, please call the Wedding Director.

Acceptance:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Responsible Party**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Wedding Director**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Please make a copy for your records and return this signed form to:**

FBC, Attn: Wedding Director, PO Box 7123, Little Rock, AR 72223