

# Wedding Manual



*With this ring...*

**FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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# Wedding Policies

## PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

### Members:

If you are a member of Faith Presbyterian Church, the Pastor would like to have a brief initial meeting with the couple. This appointment should be made several months prior to the wedding. Once it is agreed that the pastor will perform the marriage, then arrangements will be made to meet with the couple for at least two (2) additional sessions. Topics to be discussed include: communication, commitment, conflict, the meaning of love, and the importance of faith in Christ.

### Non-Members:

After reading through this information, if a couple would like to be married at Faith Presbyterian Church, the following is required:

- Attend three (3) worship services.
- After you have attended three (3) worship services, the Pastor will meet briefly with the couple to determine if he is free to perform the marriage.
- If the Pastor agrees to perform the marriage, arrangements will be made to meet with the couple for two pre-marital counseling sessions.

## MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

### Divorce and Remarriage

When a couple asks Pastor Dave to officiate at their wedding, sometime during the initial conversation he will normally ask whether either person seeking marriage has been divorced. The following section is written so that you can understand why this would be an important topic to discuss and resolve. What is written

## MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE CONTINUED...

here is not meant to condemn or question the integrity of divorced persons. Rather it is hoped that a biblical understanding of divorce and remarriage will lead to greater freedom and joy in marriage.

Whenever a marriage ends in divorce, there is pain for all that are involved. Divorce is not an “unforgivable sin” nor is it wrong in every instance. However when a pastor officiates at a wedding he is conferring the blessing of God upon that marriage. The Scripture makes it clear that the follower of Christ should only seek to dissolve a marriage when there are biblical grounds for the divorce. Therefore Pastor Dave, at times, may decline to perform a marriage because he believes that it would be contrary to God’s will as revealed in the Scripture. In many cases, there are “gray areas” that need to be explored before the Pastor can reach his decision. Put in a more positive way, the Pastor is open to remarry a divorced person when his/her former spouse:

- committed adultery (Matthew 5:31-34, Matthew 19:3-12).
- deserted them (I Corinthians 7:12-14).
- remarried or is deceased.
- is not receptive to reconciliation (I Corinthians 7:12-14).

Pastor Dave would be very happy to discuss this with you more fully at your request.

## MARRIAGE BETWEEN A CHRISTIAN AND NON-CHRISTIAN

The Pastor may not perform a marriage when one clearly acknowledges a relationship to Christ as their Lord and Savior and the other person does not profess faith in Christ. The issue is not a difference of denominations, language or style; but rather, a fundamental difference in the way we respond to Jesus Christ (see II Corinthians 6:14-18). For those who have questions or doubts about their faith, the Pastor is eager to discuss how they can be assured that they have received Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

## USE OF CHURCH FACILITIES

The detailed use of the church, including the Sanctuary and Faith Center, must be arranged through the Church Office. Fees for the use of the Faith Center will depend upon what portion of the facility is utilized.

The following rules are to be observed by all members of the wedding party and guests:

- No alcoholic beverages are permitted on the church property.
- No smoking is allowed in any of the church buildings.
- Birdseed or rice may be thrown at the end of the covered walkway.

The Church Office should be advised of the florist's and/or caterer's plans. Unless otherwise notified, the Sanctuary will be unlocked one and a half hours prior to the ceremony.

## MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS

- Music that is not in keeping with a Christian wedding should be avoided. Please consult with the Pastor if there is any question.
- Following the initial counseling session and the setting of the wedding date, the couple will be responsible for making all musical arrangements with the Church Organist. In all cases, the musicians are to be paid separately.
- If the Church Organist is not available, then whoever is asked must be approved by the Church Organist and the Director of Music and the Arts.

## FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS AND CHURCH DECORATIONS

- Complete floral arrangements are the responsibility of the couple.

## WEDDING REHEARSAL

- During the wedding rehearsal all the various details of the service will be discussed, rehearsed and re-rehearsed if necessary. It always makes the wedding day go more smoothly when all the various participants in the wedding are present at the rehearsal.

## WEDDING CEREMONY

- The wedding ceremony, performed by the Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church, is the traditional Presbyterian wedding ceremony with a short wedding meditation following the exchange of rings. If there are items the couple wishes to add to the ceremony (i.e. music, flower arrangements, candles, specific vows, etc.), the Pastor is flexible and will negotiate the details of these added arrangements.

## PHOTOGRAPHY ARRANGEMENTS

- There is a beauty and dignity to a marriage service. In order to preserve this, photography during the service itself should be limited. As the bride comes down the aisle—it is acceptable for the photographer to take appropriately staged pictures. (The pastor is happy to discuss what this means before the service.) During the service photography should be limited to the camera stationed in one place capturing the live moments of the service without calling attention to the camera or the person operating the camera. (This is usually done by placing the camera on a tripod somewhere near the end of the center aisle.) The pastor is very happy to be a part of staging any pictures that were taken during the service following the service.

## **MARRIAGE LICENSE**

- The wedding cannot proceed without the marriage license being delivered to the officiating Pastor.
- After the license is signed by the Pastor and the witnesses, it is filed at the County Courthouse and a certificate will be mailed to the couple.

## **FEE SCHEDULE**

### **Members:**

There is no designated fee set for the Pastor's services or the Sanctuary. If a member desires to give an honorarium to the pastor, the suggested fee is \$150. The Organist's fee is \$150, the Sound Technician's Fee is \$50 and the Custodial fee is \$75.

### **Non-Members:**

There is a fee of \$150 for the Pastor's services, \$250 for the use of the Sanctuary, the Organist's fee is \$150, the Sound Technician's Fee is \$50 and the Custodial fee is \$75.

**NOTES...**

## MARRIAGE SERVICE

# The Celebration of Marriage Uniting \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Faith Presbyterian Church  
Seminole, Florida

Time  
date

Prelude  
Seating of the Grandmothers  
Seating of the Mothers  
Lighting the Family Candles

Processional

### ***The Call to Celebration***

Friends of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, we are assembled here in the presence of God, to join this man and this woman in Holy Marriage; which is instituted of God, regulated by His commandments, blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, and to be held in honor among all. Let us therefore reverently remember that God has established and sanctified marriage, for the welfare and happiness of humankind. Our Savior has declared that a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife. By his apostles, He has instructed those who enter into this relation to cherish a mutual esteem and love; to bear with each other's infirmities and weaknesses; to comfort each other in sickness, trouble, and sorrow; to provide for each other and the needs of the family through honest work and labor; to pray for and encourage each other to be faithful disciples of Christ; and to always remember that the greatest relationship in life is found within the joy and love of marriage.

### ***Prayer for God's Blessing***

*Let us pray:* Almighty and ever-blessed God, whose presence is the happiness of every condition, and whose favor hallows every relation: we ask You to be present and favorable to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. As You hast brought them together by Thy providence, sanctify them by Thy Spirit. And enrich them with all grace, whereby they may enjoy the comforts, undergo the cares, endure the trials, and perform the duties of life together, under Your guidance and protection; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

(You may be seated)

### ***Giving Away of the Bride***

This is a ceremony that is very personal, for it is the result of two persons deciding that together life holds greater promise than life alone. But this is also an event to be shared; because while you now belong to each other, you will always need the help of your family and friends.

Today you are declaring your commitment to accept one another as companion, friend, confidant and lover. From this day forth you will be drawn together in a relationship so close and so intimate that it will profoundly affect your whole future. It is therefore a decision that is not entered into lightly, but rather undertaken with great consideration and respect for yourself and the other person. In marriage two people bind their lives together finding a deeper freedom, a greater fulfillment and enduring love.

(Then the Minister, calling the Man by his Christian name shall say:)

(Man's Name) \_\_\_\_\_, will you have this woman to be your wife, and will you pledge your loyalty to her, in all love and honor,

in all duty and service, in all faith and tenderness, to live with her, and cherish her, according to the ordinance of God, in the Holy Bond of Marriage?

(The Man shall answer:) I Will

(Then the Minister, calling the Woman by her Christian name, shall say:)

(Woman's Name) \_\_\_\_\_, will you have this man to be your husband, and will you pledge your loyalty 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?

(The Woman shall answer:) I Will.

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

(The father, or guardian, or friend, of the woman shall put the woman's right hand into the hand of the man and say)

Her mother and I do (or a similar appropriate phrase)

(Bride should hand off flowers)

*(Possible Song/Scripture) \**

### **The Vows of Marriage**

(Invite married couples present to reaffirm their vows. As the couple joins hands and faces each other, the minister continues.)

The groom shall repeat after the Minister:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wedded wife: and I do promise and covenant before God and these witnesses; to be your

loving and faithful husband; in plenty and in want; in joy and in sorrow; in sickness and in health; as long as we both shall live.

The bride shall repeat after the Minister:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wedded husband; and I do promise and covenant; before God and these witnesses to be your loving and faithful wife; in plenty and in want; in joy and in sorrow; in sickness and in health; as long as we both shall live.

### ***Exchanging of Rings***

Minister: Is there a ring for the bride?

(The best man then hands the ring for the bride to the Minister. Before giving the ring, the Minister will explain the symbolism of the ring saying: *"The ring is golden, reminding us of that alloy which is least tarnished by the passing of time; reminding us that the love pledged today is lasting and permanent."*)

(The Minister shall hand the ring to the groom)

(The groom shall then place the ring on the fourth finger of the woman's left hand, saying after the Minister:)

This ring I give you; in token and pledge; of our constant faith and abiding love.

Minister: Is there a ring for the groom?

(The best man hands the ring for the groom to the Minister. Before giving the ring the Minister will explain the symbolism of the second ring saying: *"The ring is also circular, reminding us of the all-encompassing nature of the commitment being made here today. It is a promise that spans not only all of the years; but all of the activities, events and experiences of life."*)

(The Minister shall then hand the ring to the bride)

(The bride shall then place the ring on the fourth finger of the man's left hand, saying after the Minister:)

This ring I give you; in token and pledge; of our constant faith and abiding love.

*(Possible Candle Lighting And/Or Song) \**

### ***Wedding Meditation***

### ***Pastoral Prayer***

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all humankind, send your blessing upon \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; give them the courage and strength they need to fulfill the vow and covenant they have made this day. Bestow upon them, if it be your will, the gift and heritage of children; and grant that they may see their children brought up in faith and fear of the Lord, to the glory of your name. May their home always be a haven of blessing and of peace.

In everyday life may they not expect that perfection of each other that belongs alone to You. May they minimize each other's weaknesses and be swift to praise and magnify each other's points of beauty and strength. May they always see each other through a lover's kind and patient eyes.

Give them enough tears to keep them tender, enough hurts to keep them human, and enough of success to make them sure that You are walking with them, O God.

May they never take each other's love for granted, but always experience that breathless wonder that exclaims, "Out of all of the world, you have chosen me!"

This we ask of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

*(Adapted from an Episcopal prayer and a prayer from Louis H. Evans Sr.)*

### ***Lord's Prayer***

*(Possible Song) \**

### ***Pronouncement of the Marriage***

By the authority committed unto me as a Minister of the Church of Christ, I declare that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are now husband and wife, according to the ordinance of God, and the law of the state; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

You may now kiss the bride.

Whom therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.

### ***Benediction***

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

### ***Presentation of the Couple***

I now present to you...

Recessional

\* Optional, but if this is desired this would be the appropriate place

## AREAS TO BE COVERED IN COUNSELING

- FAITH
- COMMITMENT
- COMMUNICATION
- CONFLICT
- ROLES
- FAMILY: IN-LAWS
- FINANCES/SEX

## PRE-MARRIAGE EVALUATION INVENTORY

On a scale of 1 to 5, "1" is the lowest or most negative number. The numbers get more positive until they reach "5" which is the highest and most positive. Circle the appropriate number.

The woman should circle her answers first, and then have the man complete his column with her answers covered.

<u>Roles, Relationships, Responsibilities</u>	<u>Man</u>	<u>Woman</u>
We understand and cooperate well in our roles and responsibilities.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
My fiancé/fiancée meets my expectations of a marriage partner.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I will be satisfied with the organization of time, work and responsibility in our marriage.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
We spend enough time together as a couple in talking.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I'm able to discuss anything with my partner.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
<u>Money</u>		
We have worked out a satisfactory budget system.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
We will manage as well as we can on our income.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
We will consult on how the money is spent.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
We can discuss money matters comfortably.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
<u>In-laws</u> (to be)		
My in-laws aren't a source of tension or argument between us.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
We accept each other's relatives sufficiently.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
We can talk about our relatives without becoming angry.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

## Evaluation Inventory Continued...

### Child Rearing

	<u>Man</u>	<u>Woman</u>
We will agree on principles of child discipline.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
We will share together in making rules.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
We will both enforce and carry out the rules.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Our children will feel free to discuss anything with us.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
As a family, we will feel free to discuss any subject at all.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

### Leisure Time

We spend enough time together as a couple in social activities and recreation.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
This time is enjoyable.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
We have the proper amount of independent social activities.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Our family recreation will include enough activity with the children.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
We will discuss leisure activities and agree upon them.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

## BUILDING A COMMON VISION OF MARRIAGE

- List the names of three couples who demonstrate qualities in their relationship which you admire:

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Quality</u>
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____

- List three qualities which you greatly admire in your partner:

1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____

## COMMUNICATION IN MARRIAGE

This section is designed to evaluate your present level of communication with your partner. Remember that clear communication is vital to the success of a marriage. Keep in mind this key point: **Almost all miscommunication is based upon differing assumptions.** When communication breaks down, it is helpful to check your assumptions with those of your partner.

In the list of questions below use the following scale:

**a-Frequently b-Occasionally c-Rarely d-Never**

For each question there is a column for the man and a column for the woman to indicate his/her answer. Circle the letter that most accurately indicates your answer.

	<u>Man</u>	<u>Woman</u>
1. My partner likes to talk to me.	a b c d	a b c d
2. My partner is sensitive to my moods.	a b c d	a b c d
3. My partner likes to hear about my work.	a b c d	a b c d
4. I like to hear about my partner's work.	a b c d	a b c d
5. My partner gives me gifts I desire for birthdays and Christmas.	a b c d	a b c d
6. My partner and I have a good understanding and agreement of guidelines for disciplining our children.	a b c d	a b c d
7. I can tell when my partner is angry.	a b c d	a b c d
8. My partner can tell when I am angry.	a b c d	a b c d
9. My partner and I enjoy the same kind of movies.	a b c d	a b c d
10. My partner and I enjoy the same kind of music.	a b c d	a b c d
11. My partner and I enjoy each other's company.	a b c d	a b c d
12. My partner and I communicate our deepest feelings.	a b c d	a b c d
13. I feel loved.	a b c d	a b c d
14. I sometimes feel ignored.	a b c d	a b c d
15. I would appreciate more compliments.	a b c d	a b c d

## Communication In Marriage Continued...

	<u>Man</u>	<u>Woman</u>
16. We argue too much.	a b c d	a b c d
17. My partner is too tied to his/her parents.	a b c d	a b c d
18. Television sometimes interferes with our activities.	a b c d	a b c d
19. We laugh a lot together.	a b c d	a b c d
20. I sometimes wonder if my partner would be unfaithful to me.	a b c d	a b c d
21. We have many mutual friends with whom we share time and activities.	a b c d	a b c d
22. I sometimes feel jealous.	a b c d	a b c d
23. I sometimes am not completely honest in order to avoid an argument.	a b c d	a b c d
24. The house and yard work is fairly shared.	a b c d	a b c d
25. My partner is an excellent money manager.	a b c d	a b c d
26. We too often let things make us irritable toward one another.	a b c d	a b c d
27. We can usually talk over our problems and come to an agreeable solution.	a b c d	a b c d
28. We feel free to pray together.	a b c d	a b c d
29. We discuss what we believe about God.	a b c d	a b c d
30. We attend Sunday school and/or church together.	a b c d	a b c d
31. My partner is overweight.	a b c d	a b c d
32. My judgment is not always properly respected.	a b c d	a b c d
33. I am liked by most people.	a b c d	a b c d

Step 2—**Discussion:** Indicate to your partner which of the above items are most important to you and why.

- Determine those areas which you have the greatest compatibility.
- Determine those areas which you have the greatest conflict.

## RECOMMENDED READING...

*The Act of Marriage: The Beauty of Sexual Love* by [Tim & Beverly LaHaye](#)

*The Hard Questions/100 Essential Questions to Ask* by [Susan Piver](#)

*Preparing for Marriage: A Complete Guide to Help You Discover God's Plan for a Lifetime of Love* by [David Boehi](#), [Brent Nelson](#), [Jeff Schulte](#), [Lloyd Shadrach](#)

Taken from the back cover of *Preparing for Marriage*

Before You Walk down the Aisle, do you know where you're going?

You are in love and it is the real thing. Together you have made a joyous decision destined to change your lives forever—you're getting married. During the excitement of planning the perfect wedding, now is a time to prepare for a life together. With planning, you can experience a lifetime of love and romance.

*Preparing for Marriage* is a dynamic program designed to help you lay the foundation for a strong biblical marriage. The study includes six fun and romantic sessions and five special projects that will prepare you as a couple for the loving, lasting marriage firmly established in your Lord Jesus Christ.

***Preparing for Marriage will help you:***

- learn about God's unique blueprint for marriage
- discern God's will for your relationship
- handle your finances and plans for the future

- clarify your roles and responsibilities
- established a positive and loving sexual relationship
- deal with issues, expectations and family histories
- evaluate as a couple your readiness for marriage

*The Five Love Languages:* by [Gary Chapman](#)

1. What Happens after the Wedding?
2. Keeping the Love Tank Full
3. Falling in Love
4. Love Language Number one: *Words of Affirmation*
5. Love Language Number Two: *Quality Time*
6. Love Language Number Three: *Receiving Gifts*
7. Love Language Number Four: *Acts of Service*
8. Love Language Number Five: *Physical Touch*
9. Discovering Your Primary Love Language
10. Love Is a Choice
11. Love Makes the Difference
12. Loving the Unlovely
13. Children and Love Languages
14. A Personal Word