

# MARRIAGE POLICY

Crossroads • 6450 S. State Highway 360 • Grand Prairie, TX 75052 • [crossroadschristian.org](http://crossroadschristian.org)

**Barry L. Cameron, Pastor**

## **BEFORE YOU GET MARRIED ...**

As a scriptural matter, all those who voluntarily associate with Crossroads, are connected as members, or in any other capacity, are deemed to acknowledge that the Elders' interpretation of Scripture includes the definition of marriage as the union between only a man and a woman and excludes homosexual relationships. Specifically, "We believe the term 'marriage' has only one meaning, and that is marriage sanctioned by God, which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive, covenantal union, as delineated in Scripture."

[By-laws of Crossroads Christian Church, Grand Prairie, TX]

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

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

It is our desire to help make sure your marriage is the happiest and most fulfilling relationship possible. Like you, we want your marriage to be all God intends for it to be. Marriage is a gift from God and He desires to be a part of your marriage and to bless your life together.

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

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

We are committed to building strong marriages and want to share the following Scriptures, which form the basis for the guidelines in this policy manual. It is not our desire to condemn or reject anyone. However, we are Scripturally bound to follow God's principles for marriage.

These Scriptures concern marriage and are the basis for the decisions we make regarding weddings we perform here:

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

### **WHO WILL WE MARRY?**

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

### **PREMARITAL COUNSELING:**

1. We require you and your fiancée to read seven (7) books and listen to two (2) CD series during the four (4) months prior to your marriage. These will be provided to you once you have paid your fees. The seven (7) books are:
  - **THINGS I WISH I'D KNOWN BEFORE WE GOT MARRIED** by Gary Chapman (Northfield)
  - **THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES** by Gary Chapman (Moody)
  - **LOVE, MARRIAGE & SEX** by Dr. David Jeremiah (FaithWords)
  - **MONEY BEFORE MARRIAGE** (a financial workbook for engaged couples) by Larry Burkett (Moody) (We substitute **MARRIAGE WITHOUT REGRETS** for older couples.)
  - **THE COMPLETE FINANCIAL GUIDE FOR YOUNG COUPLES** by Larry Burkett (Victor Books) (We substitute **MAKING LOVE LAST FOREVER** for older couples.)
  - **PERSONALITY PLUS FOR COUPLES** by Florence Littauer (Fleming H. Revell)
  - **THE ABCs OF FINANCIAL FREEDOM** by Barry Cameron (College Press)The two (2) CD series are:
  - **HOME REMEDY**
  - **BUILDING THE HOME OF YOUR DREAMS**
2. We require each of you to fill out a six-page, detailed questionnaire. This must be done separately to be effective.
3. We require each of you to complete a personality assessment test. This must be done separately as well.
4. We require each of you to complete a Spiritual Gifts test. This must be done separately as well.

5. We require each of you to complete The 5 Love Languages quiz. This must be done separately as well.
6. We require four to five counseling sessions in the three to six months prior to your marriage.

### **WHO PERFORMS YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY?**

1. All weddings held at Crossroads Christian Church will be performed by a member of our pastoral staff.
2. We do NOT rent out our facilities or allow outside Pastors to use our facilities for weddings or to perform weddings for people in our fellowship. (No exceptions.)
3. Outside Pastors may assist our Pastor or a member of our pastoral staff, but may not perform the ceremony.
4. Our pastoral staff and facilities are NOT typically available for weddings on holidays.

### **POLICIES GOVERNING THE WEDDING:**

#### **1. THE REHEARSAL**

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

#### **2. THE CEREMONY**

- Our Pastors use a traditional and Biblical wedding ceremony that will be personalized for your wedding.
- The Pastor and the couple getting married will set the time of the ceremony. (This will be done during one of the counseling sessions.) Weddings are usually on Friday nights, or on Saturday in the early afternoon. **BECAUSE OF FACILITY LIMITATIONS, WEDDINGS SCHEDULED AFTER 2:00 P.M. ON SATURDAY MUST BE CONCLUDED BY NO LATER THAN 5:00 P.M.**
- **NO RICE or CONFETTI IS TO BE THROWN** inside our building or on the walkways around our building. This is permitted only in the parking lot. (None within 25 feet of the building.)

- ONLY dripless candles or electric candles may be used in our facilities for your ceremony. Please pre-light all candles prior to your ceremony to make sure they will light during the ceremony.
- The wedding party assumes TOTAL responsibility for any damage done to the building and/or property.
- We will not marry anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs of any kind, and will not permit anyone in the wedding party to participate in the ceremony if they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs of any kind.
- Since a wedding is a ceremony of a spiritual nature, we insist that everyone involved in the ceremony conduct themselves in a serious and spiritual fashion out of reverence and respect for God. Pranks and jokes will not be permitted during the ceremony. Full cooperation is appreciated and will help make your ceremony a beautiful experience you'll remember and cherish for a lifetime. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to convey this to those you have selected to be in your wedding.

### 3. THE RECEPTION

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

### 4. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Read through this *Marriage Policy*, make sure you are in complete compliance with it and you understand fully what is expected of you and your entire wedding party. Next, sign the attached form, complete the questionnaire, and turn them in to the church office along with a check for fees as stated. This reserves our facilities and guarantees the date you have requested. (Without a signed form and paid fees, we cannot schedule your wedding.)

## WEDDINGS:

### OPTION A – Wedding Only

\$210.00/\$460.00

Wedding fee includes use of the Chapel for rehearsal and ceremony, equipment and sound technician, janitorial services, required books and CDs. If you request any changes to the stage, an additional charge of \$250 will be required.

*Honorariums for the Pastor and musicians assisting you in your wedding are not included in this fee and are your responsibility.*

### OPTION B –Wedding and Reception

\$310.00/\$560.00

Wedding fee includes use of the Chapel and Grand Hall for rehearsal and ceremony, equipment and sound technician, janitorial services, required books and CDs. If you request any changes to the stage, an additional charge of \$250 will be required.

*Honorariums for the Pastor and musicians assisting you in your wedding are not included in this fee and are your responsibility.*

### OPTION C – Off Site

\$160.00

Fees cover required books and CDs.

### OPTION D – Premarital Counseling Sessions Only

\$160.00

Fees cover required books and CDs.

### RENEWAL CEREMONIES:

No charge

Renewal ceremonies consist of a simple restating of your vows with a small gathering of family and friends, lasting not more than ten minutes. (All renewal ceremonies must be consistent with our statement on biblical marriage; first paragraph of this document.) If your ceremony is to be more elaborate than this, please refer to the wedding guidelines.

*Honorariums for the Pastor and musicians assisting you in your renewal ceremony are your responsibility.*

### MUSIC:

- All questions concerning music and musicians must be directed to the Pastor performing your ceremony. He will advise you on available musicians, appropriate music, honorariums, etc.
- A sound technician will be provided for your wedding to assist in setting up microphones or instruments that will be tied into the sound system. Notify the sound technician of your selections so he can plan accordingly.

### FLORIST INSTRUCTIONS:

Florists should be notified to pick up all wedding equipment, flowers, decorations, etc. as soon as possible following the ceremony.

# WEDDING AGREEMENT

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

## GROOM

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## BRIDE

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date requested for wedding: \_\_\_\_\_

Time requested for wedding: \_\_\_\_\_

We have chosen:

Option A            \$210.00

Option B            \$310.00

Option C            \$160.00

Option D            \$160.00

Renewal Ceremony No charge

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**— QUESTIONNAIRE FOR COUPLES PLANNING A WEDDING —**

(Must be turned in with your wedding form and fees)

DATE RECEIVED: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Groom's Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bride's Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_