

WEDDINGS AT GRACE CHURCH

At Grace Church, marriage is viewed as a sacred covenant. In the Bible, marriage is called a covenant, which is a special kind of promise, one in which God Himself is the witness. The bride and groom take vows, which God seals. The result is that husband and wife are joined for life, beginning a lifelong bond of family and kinship that can be broken only by death. It's imperative that couples do more than merely plan a wedding ceremony; they must prepare for a love relationship over a lifetime. In fulfilling the responsibilities of Christian marriage and building a Christian home, a couple ensures many benefits that will impact their own lives, the lives of their children, and the lives of others. As we begin the process of establishing a Christian marriage, we make the first steps toward building a godly heritage.

THE WEDDING PROCESS AT GRACE CHURCH

1. When requesting a wedding, couples meet with a pastoral staff member for an initial interview and review all Grace Church wedding policies.
2. Couples are asked to make steps to conform to all requirements set forth in the policies.
3. Couples sign and return premarital covenant.
4. A couple's wedding is placed on the church calendar.
5. Couples engage in premarital counseling with staff pastor.
6. Couples attend wedding rehearsal; couples are joined at wedding event.

GRACE CHURCH PASTORAL WEDDING POLICIES

Every couple seeking a wedding at Grace Church should ask themselves a question: Are you merely seeking a wedding ceremony or are you seeking to prepare for the responsibilities of Christian marriage and building a Christian home? Couples should recognize that the calling of the pastors of Grace Church is such that we are

focused on the latter. Consequently, our policies are in line with this objective.

1. The parties must demonstrate a genuinely submissive spirit to the pastoral guidance they receive.
2. The couple must agree to several required premarital counseling sessions (as many as the pastor deems necessary).
3. The couple will be expected to understand and embrace a biblical covenant of marriage (a commitment for life, vowed before God).
4. Both parties must give evidence of saving faith in Christ. Both parties must be born again of the Spirit, having personally trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation.
5. Given the clear statement of Scripture, our pastors cannot marry a believer to one who is not yet a believer.
6. Given the importance of the nurture of Christian marriages, couples must evidence a commitment to active participation in the body of Christ, our own church, or another like-minded congregation.
7. As God's Word states that sexual purity before marriage is the only acceptable standard, couples are asked to establish and maintain such a standard in their relationship.
8. Couples who are living together will be expected to make arrangements to establish separate residences, and then to recommit to and maintain sexual purity for the duration of the preparation process.
9. Couples will be asked to sign a premarital covenant agreement. Only after this step is taken will a wedding date be confirmed on the church calendar.
10. Couples are expected to maintain a cooperative spirit with the pastors and wedding coordinator in the fulfillment of all other non-pastoral policies regarding the wedding preparations and wedding events.

Premarital Covenant Agreement

- ❖ *We have read and agree to fulfill all of the wedding policies set forth by Grace Church.*
- ❖ *We agree to submit to the pastoral direction given to us.*
- ❖ *We agree to actively participate in the believing community now and after our marriage.*
- ❖ *We agree to maintain a standard of sexual purity throughout the time of our courtship.*
- ❖ *We agree to make a vow to God for a lifetime covenant of marriage.*
- ❖ *We agree to enthusiastically engage in the premarital preparation and counseling process.*

Groom Signature: _____

Bride Signature: _____

Parent of Groom

Signature: _____

Parent of Bride

Signature: _____

Upon receipt of this signed covenant, the wedding can be placed on the church calendar. Our pastors retain the right to end the premarital process and cancel Grace Church's participation in the wedding if this agreement is not sincerely fulfilled.