

Marriage Expectations

Thank you so much for asking me to be a part of your marriage preparation and ceremony. I believe that a marriage done God's way, in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Bible, will bring great joy and blessing into your life. As a minister, my goal is to help couples understand God's design for marriage and to help each party involved prepare to be faithful for better or worse, until death do them part. Though I hope that the wedding ceremony is a very special, God-glorifying occasion for the bride and groom, I am far more concerned that the couple is prepared for a lifetime of marriage than for a one-day ceremony. To this end, the couple must agree to the following expectations, which I believe help the couple to enter into a lasting, beautiful, marriage covenant.

-Both parties must demonstrate a genuinely submissive spirit to the pastoral guidance they receive.

-Couples should expect to meet with me for seven pre-marital counseling sessions. The first session is an introductory interview, and the remaining six sessions will require preparation (reading and homework assignments). Because I desire to invest in your relationship, I expect for you to invest time in preparing for each session. Failure to prepare for the sessions may result in my decision to discontinue the marital process.

-The couple will be expected to understand and embrace a biblical covenant of marriage (a commitment for life, vowed before God).

-Given the clear statement of Scripture (2 Corinthians 6:14), I cannot marry a believer to one who is not yet a believer.

-Local churches help nurture Christian marriage. Therefore, couples must give evidence of a commitment to actively participation in a local church family.

-As God's Word states that sexual purity before marriage is the only acceptable standard, couples are required to establish such a standard in their relationship. Keeping in line with this standard, couples who are living together will be expected to establish separate residences and maintain sexual purity for the duration of the engagement.

- I expect that the couple will seek to tell me the truth throughout the premarital process. Further, if either party has previously been divorced, I need to know the honest circumstances of the divorce in the first introductory interview.

If both parties agree to the above expectations, please sign below and bring to the first session.

Signature Date

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