

# WEDDING APPLICATION

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding!

"Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate" (Mark 10:9).

In a wedding ceremony, the bride and groom enter a covenant relationship between themselves and God. Their vows are made not only in the presence of witnesses, but also in the presence of God. Each makes a commitment before the Lord that he/she will fulfill certain and specific obligations until death separates them.

Given the nature of the wedding ceremony, the officiating pastor stands before a bride and groom as God's representative. He is not simply a civil servant fulfilling a legal requirement to formalize the marriage. His first responsibility is to God, and he must carry out his duties in obedience to the Word of God. Part of this responsibility is to ensure that the wedding ceremony honors biblical guidelines.

We believe that God's design for marriage as stated in the Bible is:

## **1. IT IS THE WILL OF GOD THAT A BELIEVER IN JESUS CHRIST SHOULD NOT MARRY A NON-BELIEVER.**

The Scriptures declare: *Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?* (2 Corinthians 6:14-15)

On this wedding application, we ask that each of you briefly give your personal testimony. During the first meeting of premarital counseling, both parties will be asked to share their current relationship with Jesus Christ.

## **2. IT IS THE WILL OF GOD THAT A COUPLE MUST ABSTAIN FROM SEXUAL RELATIONS AND LIVE SEPARATELY UNTIL AFTER THE WEDDING.**

It is the plan set forth in the Bible that the sexual relationship be reserved exclusively for individuals who are married (Hebrews 13:4). Therefore, it is essential that the individuals be living independently and that they are abstaining from premarital sexual intimacy. If the couple is already living together, we request that separate living arrangements be made. While this may seem inconvenient, we at The Compass Church are convinced that God blesses couples who choose biblical obedience in this matter.

## **3. IT IS GOD'S WILL THAT BOTH PARTIES MUST BE COMMITTED TO THE PERMANENCE OF MARRIAGE.**

God intends for marriage to be the joining of one man and one woman together for life.

The Scriptures declare: *So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.* (Matthew 19:6)

Both parties in the marriage enter a sacred covenant. They make vows, first to God but also to each other. A covenant differs from a contract. While a contract identifies limits of liability and responsibility, a covenant pledges loyalty and commitment.

*...she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.* (Malachi 2:14)

Though never God’s ideal, we recognize that divorce does occur. If one or both parties have been divorced, we will inquire as to the circumstances surrounding the divorce in hopes of bringing biblical counsel and hope to bear regarding that situation. Additional counseling sessions may be advised when one or both parties has experienced a divorce.

**3. IT IS GOD'S WILL FOR A COUPLE TO BE INVOLVED IN A CHURCH THAT TEACHES THE BIBLE.**

We believe there is no substitute for the support, care, and fellowship the local church can provide as it submits to the headship of Jesus Christ. The church is intended to provide the context for spiritual growth, worship, and vital relationships necessary for marriages to thrive.

The writer of Hebrews speaks to the importance of involvement in a local church: “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.”

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If you agree with the above statements and are able to honor them as you contemplate marriage, please sign and date below.

Signed:

Prospective Groom \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Prospective Bride \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this entire application to the church office. Once received, the officiating pastor will contact you to set up an initial interview. The appropriate fees are due upon approval of the application after the initial interview. Checks should be made payable to The Compass Church.

## Wedding Information

**Bride's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

What church are you currently attending? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been attending your current church? \_\_\_\_\_

**Groom's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

What church are you currently attending? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been attending your current church? \_\_\_\_\_

What will your address be after you are married? \_\_\_\_\_

Officiating Pastor Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Officiating Pastor Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time of Ceremony Requested: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Time

Location of Ceremony: \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time of Rehearsal Requested: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Time

Location of Rehearsal: \_\_\_\_\_

## Bride Questionnaire

Have you acknowledged your sinfulness before God, accepted that Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for your sin, and put your faith in Him alone for eternal life?

Yes     No     Uncertain

When did you make this decision? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe how you came to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

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Have you been married previously?  Yes     No

Have you been divorced? If so, what was the date of your divorce? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly state the circumstances of your divorce.

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## Groom Questionnaire

Have you acknowledged your sinfulness before God, accepted that Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for your sin, and put your faith in Him alone for eternal life?

Yes    No    Uncertain

When did you make this decision? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe how you came to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

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Have you been married previously?  Yes    No

Have you been divorced? If so, what was the date of your divorce? \_\_\_\_\_

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