

# WEDDING APPLICATION

In a wedding ceremony, the bride and groom enter into a covenant relationship between each other and God. The vows that are exchanged are given 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.

Because of 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 who dispenses a required function of the law upon request. 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 insure that marriages are performed honoring biblical guidelines.

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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. In the event that the couple is already living together, we request that separate living arrangements be made. Admittedly, this is a common area of struggle for couples in our current culture. It is the desire of The Compass Church to help couples find biblical solutions to this problem.

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 into a sacred covenant. They exchange vows, first to God, and also to each other. A covenant is different from a contract. A contract is often based upon distrust; a covenant is based upon trust. A contract is made to determine the limits of liability, while a covenant promises a commitment of responsibility. And though a contract can be voided by mutual consent, a covenant cannot be broken irrespective of what circumstances may occur.

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

If one or both have been previously married and have been divorced, we will ask that the circumstances surrounding the divorce be shared. While we openly oppose divorce, we understand that divorce occurs.

Regardless of the reasons surrounding past divorces, we challenge the individuals to accept a position that says, "Divorce is not an option." We believe the pain of reconciliation is far less than the pain of divorce. Divorce is painful and the ramifications are long-term.

The number of counseling sessions may need to increase if there has been divorce in the past for either person, and especially if there are children from a previous relationship.

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

We believe the local church is the most significant institution in our society. No organization can provide the support, care, and fellowship that the local church provides as it seeks to submit to the headship of Jesus Christ. In addition, the church provides an atmosphere for spiritual growth, worship, and enables the development of relationships that are vital components to building a healthy marriage.

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 are in agreement 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 call and set up an initial interview with you. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Groom's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Time of Ceremony \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Time

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

Date and Time of Rehearsal \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Time

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

# BRIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Have you come to the place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die today you would go to heaven? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Uncertain \_\_\_\_\_

Suppose you were to die today and stand before God and He were to say to you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" What would you say? \_\_\_\_\_

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Can you affirm that you have acknowledged your sinfulness before God, have accepted that Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for your sin, and have trusted in Him alone for eternal life?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Uncertain \_\_\_\_\_

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

Briefly describe your personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior in your life.

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Have you been married previously? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

What was the date of your divorce? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly state the circumstances of your divorce.

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# GROOM QUESTIONNAIRE

Have you come to the place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die today you would go to heaven? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Uncertain \_\_\_\_\_

Suppose you were to die today and stand before God and He were to say to you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" What would you say? \_\_\_\_\_

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Can you affirm that you have acknowledged your sinfulness before God, have accepted that Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for your sin, and have trusted in Him alone for eternal life?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Uncertain \_\_\_\_\_

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

Briefly describe your personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior in your life.

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Have you been married previously? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

What was the date of your divorce? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly state the circumstances of your divorce.

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The pastoral staff of The Compass Church is available to share with you how you can receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and have the assurance that you will spend eternity with Him in heaven.