

TAKE THESE STEPS TO ARRIVE AT YOUR WEDDING DAY!

- **Contact Marriage Ministry Leader**
Call the LCC office or email marriage@lighthousehome.org to let us know you are interested in premarital counseling or getting married.
- **Premarital Forms.** Complete premarital forms sent by marriage ministry leader and return.
- **Meet with a Pastor.** Meet for initial meeting with an LCC pastor after above is completed.
- **Begin premarital counseling.** All couples who have an LCC pastor officiate their wedding are required to complete 6-8 weeks of premarital counseling.
- **Meet with one of our Wedding Coordinators for on site weddings.** They will give you a tour and answer any logistical questions.
- **Sign the Wedding Contract.** The contract includes all the pertinent information so that each couple knows exactly what to expect.
- **Rehearsal.** In most cases, the rehearsal takes place the night before the wedding ceremony.
- **Wedding Day!**

Costs for the wedding ceremony and/or reception including facilities, janitorial services, sound and projection are listed on the fee list and contract.

WHEN IS IT ACCEPTABLE TO REMARRY?

Christians have biblical grounds for remarriage when the divorce took place in one of the three situations listed below.

1. When a marriage and divorce happened prior to salvation.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) says clearly: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

When we come to know Christ, our past sins are forgiven. When a marriage and divorce has occurred before salvation, we believe that God grants His “new creation” the freedom to remarry.

2. When a partner refuses to live faithfully with his or her spouse.

Jesus said in Matthew 19: *I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.”* Matthew 19:9 (NIV)

The Greek word from which “marital unfaithfulness” is derived refers to illicit sexual activity. In the case of marriage partners, it would refer to intimate sexual involvement with someone other than one’s mate—someone either of the opposite or same sex.

This Greek phrase suggests a sustained unwillingness to remain faithful. Someone who had a one time experience, someone perhaps who was tempted greatly and gave in, but who is repentant and willing to reestablish faithfulness, may be judged differently. What we are talking about is sustained sexual infidelity. In that case, the Lord graciously grants freedom from the marriage bond.

3. When an unbelieving partner has proven that he or she is not willing to continue to live with the believing partner and stay married.

... If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. ¹³And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him . . . ¹⁵But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. 1 Corinthians 7:12-13, 15 (NIV)

This means that when the unbeliever in a marriage decides that he no longer wants to be married—if that person essentially walks out of the marriage—then, the believing partner may be remarried.

Our Marriage Commitment at Lighthouse . . .



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Know God's great design for marriage!

GOD'S PLAN FOR MARRIAGE

Marriage is established by God as a covenant, not a contract.



"... the Lord is the witness between you and the wife of your youth ... she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant."

Malachi 2:14 (TNIV)

A covenant is based on unlimited responsibility, while a contract is based on limited liability. A covenant is a decision to be committed to someone, no matter what the cost. A covenant cannot be broken if new circumstances occur.

GOD'S PURPOSES FOR MARRIAGE

1. **Companionship:** In the first marriage, God designed Eve to be a help mate to Adam and they were each a companion for one another. The friendship factor in marriage is meant to be a blessing that both parties enjoy.
2. **Fruitfulness:** God's first command to Adam and Eve was "be fruitful and multiply." Genesis 1:28 (NKJV)
3. **Protection:** The husband is to protect the wife by laying down his life for her (See Ephesians 5:25.) The wife is to love their husband and children. (See Titus 2:4-5.)

4. A picture of Christ and the Church: Marriage is to be a human object lesson of the divine relationship between Christ and believers. (See Ephesians 5:31-33.) When husbands and wives demonstrate godly love toward each other, they demonstrate the love relationship between Christ and the Church.

GOD'S PROTECTION FOR MARRIAGE

Because marriage is so important, God has set up certain boundaries which keep the marriage relationship strong.

1. Christians may only marry other Christians.

"I am talking now as I would to my own children. Open your hearts to us! Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can goodness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? What harmony can there be between Christ and the Devil? How can a believer be a partner with an un-believer?"
2 Corinthians 6:13-15 (NLT)
God's Word says that if you profess Christ, you may not marry a non-believer. See also 1 Corinthians 7:39.

2. Before marriage, no sex or cohabitation.

"It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like

the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before."

1 Thessalonians 4:3-6 (TNIV)

Nowhere in the New Testament does God say, "when a man and woman love each other," they can have sex. The Scripture always uses the term "husband" and "wife," signifying that the man and woman have entered into a marriage relationship and made the lifetime commitment of a marriage covenant. "We love each other" is not a scripturally valid reason for beginning a sexual relationship or living together.

3. Once married, no sex outside of marriage.

"Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral." Hebrews 13:4 (TNIV)

4. Couples are to develop and express consistent love to each other in all areas. (See Ephesians 5.)

You can see how highly God values the marriage relationship. He has instituted a relationship which enables us to forge the closest of bonds. He has then told us how to keep that relationship healthy and strong.