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Guidelines for Marriage

Congratulations on your decision to get married! It is our desire to help make not only your wedding ceremony, but also your marriage a wonderful and meaningful experience.

In order to accomplish this, our church has set the following guidelines:

1. In order to build a good foundation for a successful marriage, we ask engaged couples to attend counseling sessions prior to their marriage. This will need to be scheduled with the pastor.
2. We can never underestimate the importance a personal relationship with the Lord has in marriage. Marriage is an awesome gift from God and a personal relationship with Jesus is essential in order for a marriage to be all God intends it to be. This is why at CBC we believe that it is very important for marriage to be between two people who have placed their faith in Christ. If you are unsure what this means, please feel free to talk with our pastor. He loves answering any questions you may have about your faith or religion in general.
3. In an age where living together before getting married is becoming more and more common, it is important to have a biblical perspective on this and how it relates to marriage. The Bible is clear that God condemns sex outside of marriage and calls it a form of adultery. We believe that God gives us these guidelines because, as the One who designed the marriage relationship, He knows what it takes to make a marriage successful. Therefore, it is not surprising that research conducted at Yale and Columbia University and published in American Sociological Review found: *"The overall association between premarital cohabitation and subsequent marital stability is striking. The dissolution rate of women who cohabit premaritally with their future spouse is, on average, nearly 80 percent higher than the rate of those who do not."* With this in mind it is important to understand that **there is forgiveness and grace in the Lord**. We are definitely not here to judge anyone's past, but do believe that we can change our present circumstances. Therefore, regardless of a couple's past history we request that the bride and groom make a fresh start and abstain from physical intimacy or living together prior to their wedding day.
4. The Bible does mention that there are certain biblical grounds for divorce. It also tells us that remarriage is scripturally allowed under certain circumstances. If you or your fiancé have been previously married, please contact the pastor with any questions you may have regarding this matter.
5. The bride and groom are responsible for securing their own musicians and soloist. The minister will be happy to offer suggestions and recommendations, but the responsibility of contacting them will rest with the bride and groom.
6. Please notify the minister if you will need to use the sound system or video projectors for your ceremony. We will be happy to make this available for you, but we do require that a representative of CBC run the sound system.
7. We ask that no rice/birdseed be brought into the building during the ceremony or reception. It can be passed out and thrown outside as the bride and groom are leaving. (Birdseed is preferred over rice.)
8. No smoking is permitted in the church.
9. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the church property.
10. We also request that no food or beverages be brought into the auditorium.
11. The auditorium will seat approximately 150 people.
12. For non-members there is a \$150 charge for the use of the church. (This includes the janitor, sound person, and building expenses.)

(If you have any further questions, please email Pastor Doug Wallin at doug.wallin@cbcharrison.com.)