

Couple Information and Request Form For Watermark's PreMarital Process



PREMARITAL COUNSELING COVENANT

Marriage, like all other good things, was created and given to mankind by God. As its creator and designer, God alone is able to instruct us in how to create, care for and develop this one flesh relationship. As God's servant, who is privileged to participate in the wedding ceremony, by which a man and woman covenant together before God to be united in marriage, we (Watermark Community Church) are obligated to make every effort to see to it that God and His intended design are honored. We must be faithful to Scriptural principles as well as some Scriptural convictions held by Watermark Community Church.

Pre-marital counseling, although not mandated by Scripture, is consistent with Biblical exhortations to seek wise counsel in important decisions. This is an important decision! As a result, it is our policy to require a period of counseling for any couple that requests Watermark assistance in the participation of their wedding and/or preparation to their marriage. You are asked to read this covenant and to indicate your willingness to comply with the stipulations. Your understanding and agreeing with this covenant is requisite before any pre-marital counseling begins.

It is of primary importance that both of you understand that our agreeing to marry or mentor you is not necessarily confirmation that in fact you should marry. You are responsible to God for that decision, as we are responsible in determining the extent of our involvement in your union. It also follows that if for some reason we did not feel comfortable performing your wedding, it is not necessarily against the Lord's will for you to marry. Again, you both are responsible before God for your decision to marry and we are responsible for our role in marrying or not marrying you. We only ask you to pursue that most important decision with prayer and much counsel.

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Some of the standards that Watermark upholds regarding marriage include:

- (1) Both individuals must be believers and be able to give evidence to their current and consistent commitment to grow in Christ-likeness.
- (2) Both must be free to marry. (Never before married, divorced upon Biblical grounds and spouse deceased) In the case of divorced persons, we reserve the right, after discussion of relevant details, to determine whether we feel free to perform the wedding. It is our policy to decline to perform a wedding when Biblical principles are violated or in cases where we are in doubt as to the permissibility of remarriage. Again, our decision is an expression of our conscience before God as we examine His word. It is not the last word. There is a possibility that we would not feel free to marry you and you are free before God to marry. It is possible that the opposite is true.
- (3) Both must understand and be committed to the Biblical pattern of marriage. (Permanency of marriage, roles in marriage, etc.)

Both must agree to abstain from sexual immorality from the time of this covenant until the marriage ceremony.

It is not possible for us to conduct pre-marital counseling if the couple is not willing to abide within the guidelines of Scripture concerning sex. Any questions related to this stipulation should be addressed prior to agreeing to the covenant. We may ask you to share with us your convictions in this area, your agreed upon specific 'guidelines' in maintaining this level of purity, and will ask you pointed questions concerning your purity, up to the wedding day.

The following qualifications will be assessed during the counseling process. Hopefully, a determination of these qualifications will be made early enough in the counseling process to allow for alternate arrangements in the event that we cannot in good conscience perform the ceremony and the couple still desires to marry. Should this be the case, we ask the couple to prayerfully consider our recommendation and to respect my commitment to well-founded marriages.

- (1) Both must be able to understand and accept the responsibility of marriage.
- (2) Both must be committed to and growing in their ability to solve interpersonal problems biblically.
- (3) Both must have a realistic view of and appreciation for the other.

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CONCERNING YOUR COUNSELING

Exceptions to the following may be made when extenuating circumstances warrant; however, the couple should plan upon completing the entire course of counseling.

Time and sessions: Should additional sessions be necessary to explore at greater depth areas of special need, the couple should be willing to invest the time necessary to insure a solid foundation for their marriage.

- (1) Counseling should begin at least three months prior to the intended wedding date.
- (2) Participation in the Watermark Premarital Class or a staff approved retreat and completion of all follow up exercises.
- (3) Four - Six sessions prior to the wedding with a designated mentor couple.

Expectations:

- (1) The couple must take the Prepare Inventory (test). This inventory is currently priced at \$25.00/couple.
- (2) Complete honesty and integrity is essential.

Having read and prayerfully considered the previous pages, we commit ourselves to willingly comply with these stipulations. We desire our marriage to glorify God and consequently are willing to prepare ourselves to that end.

GROOM/Male

Name: _____

Signature: _____

BRIDE/Female

Name: _____

Signature: _____

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TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE FIANCÉ (MALE) – INFORMATIONAL DOCUMENT

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Employer-Occupation: _____

Education: (level, school, major) _____

How long have you attended Watermark? _____ Are you a member? _____

What has been your involvement? _____

If you have been attending another church, where have you been attending and what is your involvement there? _____

Have you been married previously? _____

If so, please give important information regarding the termination of your previous marriage.

How long have you dated your fiancée? _____ been engaged? _____

Were you engaged before? _____ If so, for how long? _____

Briefly describe your relationship with Jesus Christ:

What evidence do you have that she is the woman of God's choice for you?

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Briefly, but specifically comment on the attitude of your parents toward your proposed marriage.

Describe your family background (spiritually, emotionally, etc.)

Watermark's premarital program demands a commitment from all concerned. Are you both interested and prepared to make such a commitment? _____

Are there any circumstances that may raise a question about the wisdom of your being married at the proposed time?

Spiritual (See II Cor. 6:14, I Cor 7:10-11, 39) _____

Physical health? _____

Financial status? _____

Education plans? _____

Emotional maturity? _____

Have you already read any books or been through any pre-engagement or pre-marital training, counseling, seminars, etc, prior to now? If yes, please specify:

If no, what do you have planned to help prepare you for marriage?

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TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE FIANCÉE (FEMALE) – INFORMATIONAL DOCUMENT

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Employer-Occupation: _____

Education: (level, school, major) _____

How long have you attended Watermark? _____ Are you a member? _____

What has been your involvement? _____

If you have been attending another church, where have you been attending and what is your involvement there? _____

Have you been married previously? _____

If so, please give important information regarding the termination of your previous marriage.

How long have you dated your fiancée? _____ been engaged? _____

Were you engaged before? _____ If so, for how long? _____

Briefly describe your relationship with Jesus Christ:

What evidence do you have that she is the man of God's choice for you?

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Briefly, but specifically comment on the attitude of your parents toward your proposed marriage.

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Watermark's premarital program demands a commitment from all concerned. Are you both interested and prepared to make such a commitment? _____

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Have you already read any books or been through any pre-engagement or pre-marital training, counseling, seminars, etc, prior to now? If yes, please specify:

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PASTOR AND MENTOR COUPLE REQUEST FORM

Projected Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____

Please check the following that apply to you:

Request for a Watermark pastor to officiate wedding ceremony? Yes / No

1st Choice (list name of pastor): _____

2nd Choice: _____

3rd Choice: _____

4th Choice: _____

While we will take your preferences into account, we cannot guarantee that the officiating pastor of your choice will be available for your date and thus we may assign another who is.

Plan to attend Watermark's Premarital Class: _____ Date: _____

Request for premarital counseling (required for a Watermark pastor to officiate) – Yes / No

1st Choice (list name of couple): _____

2nd Choice: _____

While we will take your preferences into account, we cannot guarantee that the pre-marital mentors of your choice will be available before your date and thus we may assign another couple who is.

Please return the signed Covenant and filled out Info. Form to Emily McKeaigg by email, fax or mail.
If you have any questions, call her at (214) 239-8823.

Email: emckeaigg@watermark.org

Fax: 214-361-6519

**Watermark Community Church
Attn. Emily McKeaigg
7540 LBJ Freeway, Suite 800
Dallas, TX 75251**