



Most people traditionally want a church wedding because that's the way it's supposed to be. They may have been raised in the church, their parents believe they should have a church wedding or they may receive pressure from our culture.

What does the Bible have to say on a Christian Marriage? First of all, the Bible teaches about marriage for a lifetime. It's not that people plan on divorce, but rather little is planned for a lifetime of marriage. Months and multitudes of dollars are invested into the wedding and a small amount is planned on for the lifetime of marriage.

Secondly, a Christian marriage is a reflection on the Lord Jesus Christ. A Christian wedding should honor Jesus Christ in the pre-marital activities, the wedding plans, the reception, the honeymoon and the home that the couple will make. You cannot have a Christian marriage and a pagan-like reception. The two go hand in hand.

Ephesians 5:31-33 (NKJV) *For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. [32] This is a great mystery, but I speak con-*

*cerning Christ and the church. [33] Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*



Thirdly, we have developed a process to assist a couple in marital preparation that we call, *A BLUEPRINT FOR A CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE*.

This process is an agreement between the Lord Jesus Christ, the Couple and the pastor who will be performing the ceremony. It is what we call a THE COVENANT OF PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE. It includes our pre-marital counseling policy and our financial considerations. We stress these not as options, but rather principles that will enhance your relationship as a Christian couple.

Fourthly, we believe the Lord can take any circumstance we are living with and make it right. If a couple is divorced, then rather than attempt to define the cause of the divorce as being right or wrong, we suggest the couple seek marriage at another institution.

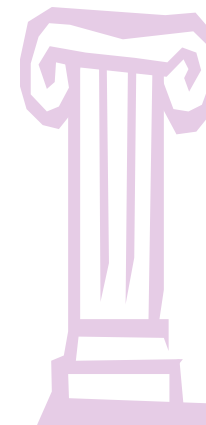
If a couple has chosen to live together for whatever reason, they must agree to separate for the duration of their preparation planning. We also hold to a high standard of personal fidelity, therefore we ask couples to refrain from sexual activity for the duration of their preparation and planning of their wedding. These are the principles that reflect a Christian wedding and marriage. It would be pleas-

ing to the Lord if these steps were followed.

Finally, we reserve the right to cancel any weddings where the Covenant Agreement is not fulfilled on the part of the couple. Wedding at Bethel are not a right, but rather a responsibility. A wedding is a reflection upon a person's heart. A Christian wedding should be pleasing to the Lord in every way.

**Mark 10:9 (NKJV) *Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.***"

Upon prayerful consideration and acceptance of these guidelines, please sign the enclosed Wedding Covenant and return to the church office. Upon returning the Covenant, we will schedule your counseling sessions and reserve your wedding date.



Rev. John A. Bouquet, Sr. Pastor  
Mike Eaton, Youth Pastor  
Natalie Powers, Secretary

575 State Route 250 North  
P.O. Box 128  
Savannah, Ohio 44874

Phone: 419-962-4763  
Fax: 419-962-4044

## Required Materials

Prior to each counseling session (except for the first one) each couple is required to have their material read from the manual *A Blueprint for a Christian Marriage*. A portion of your counseling time will be spent discussing what you read and learned from the lesson. You will be provided with the following materials which will allow you to complete the counseling sessions:



*A Blueprint for a Christian Marriage*  
By Rev. John A. Bouquet



*The Gift of Sex* by Penner & Penner



*The Five Love Languages* by Dr. Gary Chapman

*The cost of these materials are included in the counseling fee. Please see the Wedding Cost Information Sheet for exact costs.*

## Our Mission

Through the power of God and committed prayer, *Bethel Baptist Church* exists for the purpose of:

*Worshipping* the Father;  
*Reaching* the world through the salvation message of Jesus Christ;  
*Building* nurturing relationships with people; and  
*Equipping* of believers with Biblical Truth for a life of service.

Come and make our church, your home.

Sunday School	9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10:45 am
Sunday Evening Service	6:00 pm

Wednesday Evening 6:30 pm\*  
Youth Programs, Adult Bible Studies, Prayer Meeting  
\*Our Summer programs (June - Aug.) run at 7:00 pm

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# CHRISTIAN WEDDINGS AT BETHEL

## Wedding Principles and Guidelines



God has poured out his love into our hearts....  
Romans 5:5

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