



Premarital Mentoring & Wedding Guidelines

Congratulations on your engagement and the decision you have made to enter into the covenant of marriage! We believe marriage is a sacred institution ordained by God between a man and a woman (Genesis 2), given to us as a gift (James 1:17) in order to display His greatness to the world (Matthew 5:14-16, Ephesians 5:22-33). Our desire at Grace Covenant Church is to help in any way we can to get you ready for your wedding day, and more importantly for your marriage, by equipping you to fulfill your wedding vows for life to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Whether we are providing you with premarital mentoring, a pastor to officiate and/or a venue to hold the ceremony, as the body of Christ we are primarily concerned with God being honored in the process (Colossians 3:17, 23-24). To that end, we have put together these guidelines as a reference to guide you through this process.

Requirements

- Couples who are sexually involved with one another must agree to abstain until after their wedding (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7).
- Cohabiting couples will be asked to meet with the Family Life Pastor to work out and agree upon a biblical solution in their relationship. A cohabiting couple is one that is not married yet lives together and is sexually active.
- Couples must be “evenly yoked.” That is, they must either both be professing Christians or both be professing unbelievers. We will be unable to mentor, officiate and/or provide a venue for the wedding for a couple in which one professes to be a Christian and the other professes to be an unbeliever (2 Corinthians 6:14).
- Couples in which one or both of the individuals has been previously married will be encouraged to read our position paper on Divorce & Remarriage and meet with the Family Life Pastor to share their story regarding this previous relationship. Unfortunately, if the divorce was not on biblical grounds, then we will be unable to provide these services.

- Couples wishing to have a pastor officiate and/or desire to use the church as a venue **MUST** participate in premarital mentoring. Couples who are unable to participate in Grace’s mentoring program can complete an approved program elsewhere. We strongly recommend a 6-month window prior to your wedding day to facilitate the mentoring.

If for any reason you have questions about these requirements or are uncertain about meeting them, we would love the opportunity to meet with you and discuss your concerns and, if needed, work with you to seek a biblical solution.

Please know that you do not have to be a member of Grace to take advantage of these ministry options and that each option has an individual cost associated with it. Please see below for detailed information on each of our offerings.

1) Premarital Mentoring Process

At Grace, our goal is to help couples prepare effectively for marriage by examining themselves both as individuals and as a unit. We believe that this can best take place in a focused, personalized setting, which is why we use a mentorship model. We will pair you with a mentor couple who will meet with you on a regular basis and take you through the premarital curriculum as well as share biblical insights on God’s design and goal for marriage and how His Word equips and empowers you to live out your vows for life. Your mentoring couple can get to know you on a personal level and can tailor topics and discussions toward the specific needs that you have or want to address in your relationship. You will also receive a complete analysis of the two assessment tests you take, which identify temperaments and tendencies that you bring to the relationship and provide insight into how to relate better to your future spouse.

Contact: Jacquie Parish, family life admin, jacquiep@grace360.org

Cost: \$140.00

(Upon completion, you will receive a Twogether in Texas certificate which waives the \$60.00 marriage license fee and the 3-day waiting period for the license.)

Includes:

- TJTA (Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis)
- SYMBIS Assessment (Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts)
- SYMBIS Curriculum, Books and Workbooks by Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott
- *Love & Respect* by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs
- *Sexual Intimacy in Marriage* by William Cutrer, M.D. & Sandra Glahn, ThM.
- Twogether in Texas certificate

Process:

- Each individual completes and returns the “Questionnaire & Background Check-up.”
- Family Life Pastor reviews and signs off or requests to meet with couple to discuss various areas of the relationship.
- A fee of \$140.00 (per couple) is collected, which covers the cost of materials used.
- Each individual will need to complete and sign a “Release of Liability” form.
- Each individual completes the TJTA and SYMBIS assessments.
- After pastoral review, the couple is paired with a mentor couple. They meet together for 8-10 sessions over the course of 10-12 weeks.
- Upon completion, the couple is issued a Twogether in Texas certificate and may apply for their marriage license.

2) Wedding Officiant Process (Premarital mentoring required)

At Grace, it is a pleasure to provide a pastor or minister to officiate your wedding. It is our desire to serve you on your special day by working with each couple to create a beautiful ceremony that glorifies God and blesses the bride and groom as they enter into the covenant of marriage.

Contact: Jacquie Parish, family life admin, jacquiep@grace360.org

Cost: \$250 (Payable to officiant)

Process:

- Couple meets with officiant about 6 weeks prior to wedding to build rapport and discuss the wedding and rehearsal logistics along with the wedding ceremony elements and theme.
- Officiant creates wedding ceremony rough draft and submits to couple for review and feedback.
- Officiant rehearses ceremony at rehearsal.
- Officiant ministers at wedding and signs wedding license.

3) Wedding Venue Process (Premarital mentoring required)

At Grace, we are committed to working with you to see that your wedding places God at its center and is worshipful, memorable and personal. Due to the size of our worship center, our venue works best with large weddings.

Contact: Angela Johnson, facility coordinator, angelaj@grace360.org

Cost:

| FACILITY | Member (1-yr min.) | Non-Member |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Worship Center | \$750 | \$1500 |
| Auditorium | \$500 | \$1000 |
| Worship Center + Auditorium | \$1125 | \$2250 |

Process:

- Submit Wedding application to Angela Johnson, facility coordinator, at angelaj@grace360.org, who will check on date availability.
- Contact Jacquie Parish, family life admin, at jacquiep@grace360.org to begin the premarital mentoring process.
- Upon church approval, submit the wedding policy form and appropriate deposit for the venue to Angela Johnson.
- Date is officially booked once all above steps are completed and you will be assigned a wedding facilitator.
- Submit Wedding Worksheet to Angela Johnson.

Two weeks before wedding date, please submit the following items.

To the facility coordinator, Angela Johnson:

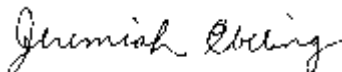
- All signed agreements (photographer, caterer, florist, and videographer).
- Facility fees are due. You're welcome to pay the amount due in increments, with the final payment due 2 weeks before the wedding. Please set up this payment schedule with the facility coordinator.

To the family life admin, Jacquie Parish:

- Officiant fee of \$250 is due.

May God bless you in Christ Jesus as you prepare for both your wedding day and for a lifelong marriage!

In Christ,



Jeremiah Ebeling
Family Life Pastor
Grace Covenant Church