

Preparing for Godly Marriage



Congratulations on your engagement! Marriage is one of the biggest decisions you will make. It is for this reason that our emphasis at Crossroads Community Church is not on performing weddings, but rather on preparing couples to have healthy, life-long, Godly marriage. The following materials reflect our desire to help couples establish a God-honoring premarital relationship and prepare them for the commitment they will make to one another before God.

Our assumption is that you desire to honor God in your marriage and pre-marriage process and that's why you are seeking to be married by a pastor of Crossroads instead of through a Justice of the Peace. With that in mind, please review the frequently asked questions and our philosophy on marriage to insure you are in agreement. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office. We look forward to serving you in preparing for a beautiful wedding and life-long marriage.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. How do I find a pastor to perform my ceremony?

- First, your wedding must be at least 3 months from the date you turn in your completed paperwork. We can not complete all required pre-marital counseling in a shorter time frame.
- Second, read "Crossroad's Philosophy of Marriage" to make sure we are in agreement on the purpose of getting married and fill out the attached Couple Questionnaire. Please sign these and return them to the church office via:

Mail:

Crossroads Community Church
c/o Marriage
PO BOX 270122
Austin, TX 78727

- Please note that the pastor will make the final confirmation about performing the ceremony after he has met with the couple.

2. Are the pre-marital sessions a required?

Yes. No pastor will perform a wedding ceremony without meeting with the couple for at least 4 times.

3. How long will pre-marital counseling take?

Typically one of our pastors will want to meet with you as a couple at least 4 times. The first session is used to get to know you as a couple and go over your questionnaires and any questions you have. The second and third sessions are used to probe areas where couples do not have alignment and or discuss issues that the specific couple is facing. The last session will be used to plan the order of worship for your wedding ceremony.

4. Are there any charges for a pastor to perform my wedding?

The only set fee is a \$40 charge for one of the online pre-marriage assessments that we ask you to take. There is no set fee for using one of our pastors. However, we do ask you to consider the amount of time a pastor spends with you as a couple including pre-marital counseling, ceremony preparation, wedding rehearsal, time, and dress expense (as well as the wedding itself) in providing an honorarium of your discretion in appreciation for his services. \$300-\$400 is customary.

Crossroad's Philosophy on Marriage

1. Marriage is a sacred covenant established by God to teach two people to love each other with God's kind of love, for better or for worse, for a lifetime. Marriage is not a 50/50 proposition, but a 100% commitment of one person to the love and betterment of the other.
2. Premarital preparation and early marriage support can make a significant difference in the long-term health and viability of a marriage. That is why we ask for you to meet for at least 4 pre-marriage counseling sessions. The pre-marital counseling sessions are designed for you to interact as a couple concerning key aspects of the marriage relationship. In most cases these sessions confirm the marriage decision, however there may be concerns raised in which you could be asked to postpone your wedding date.
3. An authentic relationship with God through Jesus Christ provides a firm spiritual foundation that gives an individual guidance and power to better relate to a spouse and to grow in love and commitment for a lifetime.
4. Crossroads will marry two professing Christians or two people who are not professing Christians with similar spiritual desires, **but we can not in good conscience, marry a couple where only one is a professing Christian.** This is based on our understanding of 2 Corinthians 6:14 (two people heading in different spiritual directions) and our experience with the tension created from a couple not sharing a common spiritual foundation.
5. If previously married, remarriage is based on Biblical eligibility. A pastor will help you in making this decision.
6. We believe that God's ideal for our sexuality is for it to be expressed in the monogamous commitment of marriage. Pre-marital sex often masks issues and keeps couples from learning emotional intimacy, friendship, and communication independent of sexual intimacy. If a couple is dependent on a sexual relationship to be happy & content together before marriage, the more important foundations for a lasting marriage are often underdeveloped. For these reasons, we ask couples to honor God's expressed desire for their sexuality (Hebrews 13:4) and abstain from sex, whether from the beginning of the relationship or from this moment on, until their marriage. **Our spiritual convictions (based on Hebrews 13:4) prevent us from being able to perform the ceremony if the couple does not agree to abstain from sex before marriage.**
7. Crossroads wants you to know that if, for any reason, we do not perform your wedding ceremony, our desire as a church is to offer you the tools and resources you need to have a healthy, lasting marriage God intends for you.



Getting Started

- Contact Crossroads Community Church at 491.0496 or via email at info@crossroadschurchaustin.com. You will be given a wedding packet and asked to complete an online relationship assessment. This assessment will help us determine any areas of your relationship that need special focus. The assessment costs \$40.00 (per couple) and can be completed online. Your check made out to:

Crossroads Community Church

Your check must be received before you can take the assessment.

- Once the assessment and the questionnaire have been completed, a meeting with a pastor will be arranged to go over the standards and to review the relationship assessment.
 - Specific pastors can be requested.
 - If there is a conflict, another pastor from the staff will be assigned to work with you through the process.
 - Typical pre-marital counseling will last four – 90 minute sessions.
- During the final meeting, the pastor will go over the highlights of the counseling. If there are no additional issues to be discussed, the pastor will confirm your wedding date and assist you in finalizing the wedding ceremony.

Please read and sign if you are in agreement with our wedding philosophy are ready to begin this process. We look forward to partnering with you as you begin your life together.

X _____

Date: _____

X _____

Date: _____