

Preparing For Marriage

Congratulations!

Thank you for considering Circleville First Baptist Church as the place where you wish to seal your marriage vows. We are honored by your interest, and want to let you know what is involved in preparing for your wedding so you can come to a more informed decision.

The marriage preparation and counseling process at Circleville First Baptist Church, which is outlined below, is both intensive and extensive. Considerable time, effort, and commitment will be required of you . . . which is good training for marriage!

1. **Premarital Counseling**

ALL couples being married at CFBC must complete premarital counseling/classes.

Duration: Usually around six sessions. This process can take up to six months.

Priority of counseling: The importance of premarital counseling cannot be overstated. You will be acquiring knowledge and skills to help you the rest of your lives. Therefore, please assign the meetings your highest priority, and be willing to adjust your regular agenda if necessary to schedule and attend them.

2. **Marriage Preparation**

A. **Approval of wedding:** The pastor will tentatively inform you by the end of the first counseling session whether he can officiate at your wedding. This will be based on his knowledge at that point. Should he agree to officiate, then later become aware of matters that could have a significant negative impact on your relationship; or if either of you fail to meet the agreed-upon requirements of the marriage preparation/counseling process, the minister may have to rescind his approval.

B. **Church attendance:** A church wedding is a service of worship to Almighty God. The significance of such a service can best be appreciated by those who regularly participate in church. Therefore, for couples who have no present church relationship, the minister will require attendance at this church's services of worship for at least three months before the wedding; and will also want to discuss your religious beliefs.

C. **Church relationships:** Since we work so closely with the people we marry, and invest so much time and effort in their lives, it is our normal policy to perform weddings only for couples who are involved in the life of our church. If you are active in and committed to another church, and plan to continue that involvement after your marriage, it is recommended that you arrange to have your wedding there.

D. **Difficult issue:** Our pastor will not marry couples who are living together before marriage. If they wish to be married here, they will need to make separate living arrangements. Our pastor is available to talk with the couple about how to make this happen redemptively.

If you have any questions concerning any of the above issues, please mention it to the pastor at your first meeting.

May God bless you as you continue to prepare for your marriage!