



PREMARITAL APPLICATION PACKET

Dear Engaged Couple:

Congratulations on your engagement! Thank you for choosing an Emmanuel Baptist Church pastor to serve you in working toward success in your upcoming marriage. To help us best serve you, as well as to help you expedite the process, we have compiled this packet with information and forms that are necessary to facilitate premarital counseling and reservation of the church facility (if applicable).

This packet includes:

- Premarital Application. Please return to EBC as soon as possible in order to begin the process. Do not let any of the questions intimidate you. They are only meant to help the pastor help you. There are questions that are personal and possibly difficult to answer. Because marriage is very personal, being candid on these questions will help set your marriage up for success.
- Pastoral Counseling Confidentiality form. Please return this with the Premarital Application.
- EBC Building Use Policy and Application. Please return this with the above forms if you desire to use Emmanuel for your wedding location.
- Article: *Should We Get Married? Five "Pre-engagement" Questions to Ask Yourself*. This is an article for you two to go through together while you wait for your application to process. Read it together and discuss the questions at the end of each section together. This will help you to start thinking through some of the issues we will cover in premarital counseling. This does not need to be returned.

Please note:

- We require premarital counseling for all couples in order to be married by a pastor from Emmanuel. Not only does premarital counseling make couples 31% less likely to divorce, but in the state of Minnesota, 12 hours of premarital counseling allows for a significant discount for your marriage license.
- Once the applications are received, please allow 1-2 weeks for processing.
- Once they are processed, you will receive an email from the officiating/counseling pastor informing you of the application status and further instructions.

If you have any questions, please contact our church office.

For the Glory of Christ,

Emmanuel Baptist Church Staff



PREMARITAL APPLICATION

WEDDING DATE: _____

WEDDING LOCATION: _____

BRIDE _____ Age: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____

Phone (cell) _____

Email _____ Vocation _____

GROOM _____ Age: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____

Phone (cell) _____

Email _____ Vocation _____

Do you both attend Emmanuel? If not, what is your home church? _____

HISTORY OF YOUR FAITH

BRIDE:

Have you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Yes_____ No_____. If yes, when did you make this decision?

Briefly describe how you came to know Jesus? In other words, briefly describe how you became a Christian.

Briefly describe your current spiritual life. How would you rate your prayer life? Your Bible reading?

GROOM:

Have you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Yes_____ No_____. If yes, when did you make this decision?

Briefly describe how you came to know Jesus? In other words, briefly describe how you became a Christian.

Briefly describe your current spiritual life. How would you rate your prayer life? Your Bible reading?

HISTORY OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP

How did you meet and how long have you been dating?

If applicable, how long have you been engaged?

Are you currently or have you been sexually active with each other (your answer will not disqualify you from premarital counseling)?

Have you ever broken off your relationship? Yes _____ No _____ Why did this happen? Why did you get back together?

Why are you deciding to marry one another? Why do you believe your marriage will work?

What preparation for marriage have you had?

What do your parents or family think about your marriage plans?

What do your friends think about your marriage plans?

PRIOR MARRIAGE HISTORY

Have either of you been married before? Bride: Yes _____ No _____ Groom: Yes _____ No _____

If so, were you widowed or divorced? Bride: _____ Groom: _____

If you were divorced, how did it end? Please provide a brief explanation.

Bride:

Groom:

Were you and your previous spouse Believers at the time of the divorce? Please provide a brief explanation.

Bride:

Groom:

When was your divorce finalized? Please provide the date.

Bride:

Groom:

Has your previous spouse remarried? Please provide a brief explanation.

Bride:

Groom:

What do you believe contributed to the breakdown of your previous marriage? Please provide a brief explanation.

Bride:

Groom:

How have you grown or changed since your last marriage?

Bride:

Groom:

Do you have any children from your previous marriage(s) or relationship(s)? If so, please provide their ages.

Bride:

Groom:

What living arrangements have been determined for the children?

Bride:

Groom:

Is this a good working relationship for all parties involved? Please provide a brief explanation.

Bride:

Groom:

What do you understand to be your biblical right to remarry? Please provide a brief explanation.

Bride:

Groom:

PREMARITAL GUIDELINES

- All couples must go through premarital counseling in order for a staff pastor to officiate a wedding. If the counseling is not through that pastor, contact must be made from the counselor to the officiating pastor. The counseling material and required counseling sessions are subject to the individual pastor/counselor's preference.
- All couples must be legally divorced from prior marriages and currently single.
- Couples must strive to abstain from sexual activity during the engagement. More on this will be discussed with the pastor officiating the wedding.
- All couples will complete the required amount of premarital counseling sessions assigned by the pastor/counselor.
- All couples must complete the homework *prior* to the counseling appointment.
- The Emmanuel pastoral staff and the Board of Stewards of Emmanuel have the right to decline this application based on the conviction of biblical principles.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The direction and intention of Emmanuel Baptist Church in marriage preparation is to provide instruction based upon God's Word. We believe that the Bible has authority for every area and season of the marriage relationship including its preparation, its progress, and its problems. Please read and sign the acknowledgment below.

Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that it is the desire of the pastoral staff at Emmanuel to help you prepare for marriage. It is their desire to help us build a strong personal relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ and to help us build a strong God-honoring relationship with our future spouse, as inspired by the Holy Spirit in His Word.

We acknowledge that the pastoral staff at Emmanuel are not professional, licensed therapists or counselors and cannot provide the assistance with which such training and licensing offers. If you or the pastoral staff member decides that you need assistance beyond that which the premarital class provides, we are able to provide you with names and phone numbers of licensed counselors to help meet your specific needs.

We acknowledge that we have read and answered this application with complete honesty. We recognize that the pastoral staff are not professional counselors, psychologists, or psychiatrists and their counsel is based on God's Word alone. We also recognize that we are solely responsible for our own actions. We, therefore, agree that we will not hold Emmanuel Baptist Church, its staff, or mentors, responsible or liable for anything whatsoever connected with the biblical instruction/counsel we are to receive.

Please check one of the options below and sign:

_____ ***Option One: We choose to abide by the stated policy***

We are entering into a relationship with Emmanuel Baptist Church to assist us in the development of a life-long, healthy Christian marriage. We understand and commit to living by the stated policies.

_____ ***Option Two: We choose not to abide by the stated policy***

We are entering into a relationship with Emmanuel Baptist Church to assist us in the development of a life-long, healthy Christian marriage. We are not currently abiding by the stated policies but would like the opportunity to meet and discuss these issues with a pastor.

BRIDE (Print name) _____ **Date** _____

Signature _____

GROOM (Print name) _____ **Date** _____

Signature _____