***CORNERSTONE CHURCH***

***Equipping People to Become Fully Alive in Christ***


# **Marriage Policy at Cornerstone Church**

At Cornerstone, premarital (or post-marital) counseling is provided by qualified and experienced ministry leaders.

Due to the time demands of shepherding the Cornerstone church family, Pastor Joe only performs wedding ceremonies for *active members* of the Cornerstone Church family.

# **Our Convictions about Marriage**

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Every new couple embarking on this great adventure called marriage needs a strategy for success, a strategy which is based on biblical convictions and that relies on the power of the Holy Spirit.

A magnificent, over-the-top joy-filled marriage requires more than wishful thinking. It can only be experienced by couples who are willing to work together in following God’s plan for them as a husband and wife.

According to *Marriage* magazine one out of every two marriages ends in divorce, but when the couple is married in a Christian ceremony, and they attend church regularly, and they pray and read the Bible together, then the odds for divorce drop to 1 out of 1,105.

According to just about every societal indicator one out of every two marriages ends in divorce… you see, many couples want to God to bless their marriage, but then they want to…proceed to go about doing things their own way, making up their own rules for how a marriage should be run.

But here’s a very powerful truth many have yet to discover: You don’t get God’s results without operating according to God’s blueprint for marriage (and life!). You don’t get God’s blessings in your marriage, and in your home, without following God’s commands and directions. You don’t enjoy God’s provision, protection, and peace without abiding by God’s principles for the marriage relationship.

Therefore, the goal of premarital training is to look to God’s plan for marriage, in order to give you the spiritual and practical resources needed to help you become a successful husband and wife and so that you can be prepared and equipped for a fulfilling, lasting, and God glorifying marriage.

**What You Can Expect**

We believe we have certain God-given responsibilities as a church to ensure that each couple is adequately prepared for marriage in today’s world, and to ensure that the testimony of our church remains consistent in our community. We strongly suggest that your engagement period be a minimum of six months, to properly prepare for getting married.

The goal during this period of premarital counseling is to give you the spiritual and practical resources needed to help you prepare for a fulfilling, lasting, and God glorifying marriage.

With that goal in mind, the counseling sessions are designed to…

1. *Assess* your “readiness” for marriage to one another.

By examining such things as…

~ Spiritual compatibility

~ Core values

~ Life goals

1. *Foster* communication between the two of you on key marital topics.
2. *Study* the biblical principles pertaining to God’s design for marriage.

~ The purpose for marriage,

~ The biblical roles & responsibilities of husbands & wives

1. *Equip* you to be ready to deal with the most common marital challenges.

~ Finances

~ Sexual intimacy

~ Communication problems

~ healthy In-law relationships

1. *Plan* a God-honoring wedding ceremony.

Our hope for you is that you’ll know God’s richest blessing during this marriage preparation period in your life and that you’ll both soon discover and experience God’s joy-filled, life-long plan for marriage.

# **Your Investment & Commitment**

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*Time*

Customarily there will be six sessions prior to the wedding date and one optional follow-up session approximately nine months after the wedding.

In order to keep this time-table, the counseling should ideally begin *no later* than six months prior to the wedding date in order to complete counseling one month prior to the wedding ceremony. The sessions will last 60 minutes and will normally be scheduled two weeks apart.

*Assignments*

Reading and other homework will be assigned. Each session will begin with a review of the homework assigned. Among other things, the assignments are designed to assist you in assessing the current state of your relationship, your expectations and values, and the potential areas for conflict. Assignments need to be complete in order for the session to take place.

*Cost*

* You’ll be purchasing a pair of workbooks which cost approximately $25.
* Take the Prepare/Enrich couple’s assessment (cost is $30 per couple).
* There will be a $150 honorarium *if* lay counselor(s) are involved in premarital counseling.
* If you are hoping to use Cornerstone’s sanctuary, please refer to and complete the *Building Use Application* form.

# **Your Next Steps**

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* Set up an appointment for an initial session by calling the church office at (262-377-9300).
* Complete the *Get-to-Know-You Questionnaire* (below) and return to the church office prior to first session.
* At that first session you’ll make appointments for the counseling sessions.
* If intending to use the church building, you’ll complete *Building Use Application*; and attach deposit, thereby reserving the date (*if* the building is available for you).

# **Get-to-Know-You Questionnaire**

# To be completed and returned before the first counseling session

**Fiancé**  (future Groom)  **Fiancée** (future Bride)

Name : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone home: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone work: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How did you meet: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ How long have you known each other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Desired wedding location:  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Date you would like to have the wedding take place: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

(You should *not make plans regarding ceremony dates* until you have received confirmation in writing from the officiating pastor or ministry leader whom you hope will perform the ceremony.)

**Background**

1. If you have a religious background, please share a little about your background:

**Fiancé**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Fiancée**

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1. What’s your understanding of what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?

**Fiancé**

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**Fiancée**

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1. Have there been any previous engagements or marriages, please detail what transpired?

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1. How would you describe your hope/desire/expectation for your future marriage?

**Fiancé**

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**Fiancée**

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1. Why do you want a “Christian” wedding ceremony?

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1. What issues do you hope are covered over the course of the counseling sessions?

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