

PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING COVENANT WITH MATT BLACKMON

Marriage is an institution given to humanity by God and is therefore subject to God's design and intentions for marriage. A minister who becomes involved in a wedding is under obligation to ensure that God is honored not only in the ceremony, but also in the period of time in which he is involved helping the couple prepare for marriage. He must be faithful to Scriptural principles as well as maintain his personal convictions about marriage. At the same time, and just as important (if not more), the bride and groom should understand that pre-marital counseling lays the foundation for a successful marriage. It is not a mere formality, but in some ways, the beginning of your new life as a married couple.

Pre-marital counseling, although not mandated by Scripture, is consistent with biblical injunctions to seek counsel in making lifelong decisions. As a result, The Heights requires Christian premarital education. As a minister at The Heights, I have requirements that are part of my personal pre-marital counseling program in addition to the requirements of The Heights Wedding Handbook. This covenant explains those requirements to you. I ask you to read this covenant and to indicate your willingness to comply with the stipulations. Your agreement is necessary before counseling begins.

Qualifications

1. Attendance at all sessions are mandatory for both parties. If you need to reschedule, please give 24 hours notice.
2. Both of you must understand and be committed to the biblical pattern of marriage, including the ability to solve interpersonal problems biblically.
3. Each session has required preparation that must be completed in advance. Any session in which your preparation is not completed must be rescheduled (more than one rescheduled session for this reason will give me the option of postponing the counseling until both can be committed).
4. Both must be committed to actively participate in church. If you are members of The Heights, that includes active involvement in a Sunday School class.
5. Both must agree to abstain from any and all sexual activity from the time of this covenant until the marriage ceremony. In addition, unsupervised overnight visitation is precluded regardless of sexual activity.

Note: If there is a violation of this point of the covenant, I will postpone my involvement in the counseling process for a period of at least six months. In some cases I reserve the right to terminate the counseling altogether. I believe that sex prior to marriage is so damaging to a marital relationship that it requires a great deal of time and effort to restore health to the relationship. It is not possible for me to conduct premarital counseling for a couple unwilling to abide within the guidelines of Scripture concerning sex. Any questions related to this stipulation should be addressed to me prior to agreeing to the covenant.

Commitment to Comply

Having prayerfully read the above guidelines, we commit ourselves to willingly comply with these stipulations. We desire our marriage to glorify God and consequently, are willing to prepare ourselves to that end.

Signature

Date

Signature

Date