

Why Do Weddings?

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. - **Hebrews 13:4 NIV**

SCRIPTURAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE

A. Between A _____ & _____

“But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason **a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife**, and the two will become one flesh.” - **Mark 10:6-8 NIV**

B. Meets _____ & _____ Standards

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. - **Romans 13:1 NIV**

C. _____ Consummation

Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “**The two will become one flesh.**” - **1 Corinthians 6:16 NIV**

MARRIAGE MEETS OUR BASIC NEEDS

A. For _____ B. For _____ C. For _____

THE CEREMONY REFLECTS SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

1. Christ's _____

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. **Forgive as the Lord forgave you.** - **Colossians 3:13 NIV**

2. Christ's _____

“The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight the cry rang out: ‘**Here's the bridegroom!** Come out to meet him!’ Keep watch, because **you do not know the day or the hour.**” - **Matthew 25:5-6,13 NIV**

3. Christ's _____

“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared **a wedding banquet** for his son... ‘So go to the street corners and **invite to the banquet anyone you find.**” - **Matthew 22:2,9 NIV**

THE CEREMONY IS RICH IN TRADITION

I _____ take you _____ /
to be my wedded husband/wife / to have and to hold / from this day forward /
for better, or for worse / for richer, or for poorer /
in sickness and in health / to love and to cherish / till death do us part.

“I am coming soon.... I will write on them the name of my God... and I will also write on them my new name.” - **Revelation 3:11-12 NIV**

I have been **crucified with Christ** and I no longer live, but **Christ lives in me.** The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. - **Galatians 2:20 NIV**

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- What was the most unusual wedding you've ever seen, heard about, or watched? Discuss. (Maybe it was yours!)
- What was the most spiritual and the most unspiritual thing you've ever seen at a wedding?

- Discuss how marriage as presented in the Bible has been downgraded by our culture. Especially touch on same-sex marriage being legalized by our Supreme Court.
- If you're older, discuss how culture was different when you were a teenager than it is for today's youth. Specifically talk about how cohabitation and homosexual relationships were taboo.
- What one thing has helped your marriage (or observed in marriage if single) remain intact over the years?
- Go over the vows above, and discuss the significance of each one.
- What one thing stood out to you in today's message?