

*Calvary Chapel of Lake Elsinore*

*Pre-Marital Counseling Requirements*

**What We Believe**

Marriage is one of the most important commitments a person can make. Aside from your decision to follow Christ, no other decision will have as great an impact on your life. It is our belief here at Calvary Chapel that the reason so many marriages are failing in our time, is because far too many churches have failed to recognize their responsibility to properly equip people to enter in to the marriage relationship. It is our goal then, to attempt to fulfill that obligation to the best of our ability before we commit to performing a marriage ceremony for you. It is also our belief that performing wedding ceremonies is an accommodation by Calvary Chapel and its ministers, to the members of Calvary Chapel. It is not something we are obligated to do. This means that if we feel that you and your fiancé are not ready, or should not be married for any reason, we will decline to perform your wedding or continue the pre-marriage counseling. In a Christian marriage, two individuals are making a vow to God to fulfill to the best of their ability, all that God requires for their marriage as outlined in the Bible. Because of the great significance and importance of the marriage vow, all parties should approach marriage prayerfully, patiently, and honestly.

**What We Require**

There are two situations in which we will automatically refuse to perform your wedding or begin pre-marriage counseling.

**The first:** If one of you is not a born again Christian. The Bible clearly teaches that we are not to be unequally yoked with an unbeliever. (2 Corinthians 6:14)

**The second:** If the two of you are currently living together. Even if you are only living “under the same roof”, the Bible tells us to “abstain from all appearance of evil”. (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

We believe it is much more important to counsel you as to how to get out of either of these situations than to move ahead with your wedding plans.

The following is a list of requirements that must be met before we will agree to perform your marriage. We will strictly adhere to these requirements without exception.

1. As we have already mentioned, in order to be married at Calvary Chapel of Lake Elsinore both the bride and groom must be born again Christians who are in active fellowship at Calvary Chapel or a Calvary Chapel affiliated Church for at least six months.

2. Each couple must complete the attached Pre-Marital Questionnaire before counseling will be scheduled.

3. After you have submitted your questionnaire, an appointment will be made to meet with a pastor, in order to determine whether we will continue with the process.

4. Before a final date is set, the couple must complete a minimum of three pre-marital counseling sessions with the pastors here at Calvary Chapel of Lake Elsinore.

5. The pastors providing the counseling must approve of the wedding before we will agree to continue with plans such as the final date, rehearsal time, etc.

6. The purpose of pre-marital counseling is to better prepare you for the marital relationship. We would hope that every marriage we perform would be honoring and glorifying to God. Even though you are a Christian, don't expect for your marriage to automatically be without problems or difficulty. It will take work, and commitment to walking in the Spirit, and obeying God.

7. A Christian wedding is a sacred event. Therefore, the entire ceremony must be conducted with reverence, and centered on Jesus Christ. All parties must be appropriately dressed, and the music glorifying to God.

# Pre-Marital Questionnaire

This questionnaire must be filled out completely and turned in to the church office. After being reviewed, an appointment will be made to meet with a pastor, at this time we will determine whether or not to begin the pre-marriage counseling.

*NOTE: We reserve the right to discontinue the counseling and planning process at any time, at our discretion.*

**Both you and your fiancé need to complete a questionnaire.**

## General Information

Have you set a tentative date for your wedding? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_

## Personal Information

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

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

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fiancé's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

## Marital Status

Have you been married before? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_ For how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you: Divorced \_\_\_\_\_ Widowed \_\_\_\_\_ Separated \_\_\_\_\_

Is your divorce final? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have children from a previous marriage? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

What are their ages? \_\_\_\_\_

If you are divorced, what is your custody arrangement? \_\_\_\_\_

If divorced, why was your previous marriage terminated? \_\_\_\_\_

## Engagement Period

How long have you known each other? \_\_\_\_\_ How long have you been going together? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been officially engaged? \_\_\_\_\_

(We require that you have been dating seriously for at least eight months before we will begin counseling)

## Religious Background

Are you a Born Again Christian? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe what it means to be Born Again: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you regularly attend a Calvary Chapel? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, which one? \_\_\_\_\_

For how long? \_\_\_\_\_ if no, where do you attend church? \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the following questions as completely yet as briefly as possible. Remember that our goal is to help you prepare for marriage. Therefore be honest with your responses. Don't simply write the answers you think we expect.

1. Write a definition of "Love". \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How do you know you "love" your fiancé? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How have you prepared for marriage?

*Have you read Christian books?* \_\_\_\_\_

If so, please list them. \_\_\_\_\_

*Have you listened to cassette tapes on Christian marriage?* \_\_\_\_\_

If so, please list them. \_\_\_\_\_

*Have you attended any classes?* \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe them. \_\_\_\_\_

4. What do you expect from marriage that you cannot have staying single? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Give some reasons why you want to marry your fiancé. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What do you see as your role in the marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What do you see as your mates' role in marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. With so many marriages failing today, why do think yours will succeed? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. How do other members of your family feel about your fiancé? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please Note:

Performance of marriage ceremonies is an accommodation to the body. NOT an obligation. It is understood that entering into pre-marital counseling is NOT an agreement of approval to be married by Calvary Chapel of Lake Elsinore or by one of its pastors. Calvary Chapel is NOT obligated to meet any wedding date set prior to the completion of counseling. We are not, nor do we claim to be "Professional" Counselors. Our counsel is based solely on God's Word, the Bible.

Be sure you thoroughly understand our position, before signing below:

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above, and that all of the information filled in is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
/ /