



## WEDDING GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION

Congratulations on your decision to be married in the Lord.

The union of a man and a woman to become husband and wife is a gift from God in accordance with the Bible. It is also a life-long commitment to love, respect, and help one another as you walk the path of salvation together.

If you have decided to have your union officiated in the presence of brethren at a True Jesus Church location and would like to receive assistance in your wedding arrangements, please read the following guidelines and complete the application at the end.

**Both applicants must be True Jesus Church members.**

❖

**Neither applicant has previously married (with the exception of a widowed applicant).**

❖

**Neither applicant has previously divorced.**

❖

**Neither applicant, after receiving the grace of salvation through baptism, has engaged in any sexual relationship, with each other or otherwise.**

❖

**The wedding ceremony shall be conducted in accordance with Biblical teachings.**

❖

**A wedding application shall be submitted to the relevant church council at least one month prior to the event.**

❖

**All arrangements involving the use of the chapel and other church property shall be submitted for the relevant church council's reference prior to the event.**

❖

**Both applicants shall review: *Marriage* in chapter 8 of the Member's Guide published by the General Assembly of the True Jesus Church, and *Marriage and Relationship between a Husband and His Wife* in chapter 19 of the Essential Biblical Doctrines booklet published by the International Assembly of the True Jesus Church. (These excerpts are included with this Application.)**

We understand and accept the above guidelines for the officiation of our wedding in the church. We would like to have our ceremony at the \_\_\_\_\_ church location and we estimate the date of our wedding to be:

\_\_\_\_\_(M)\_\_\_\_\_(D)\_\_\_\_\_(Y), at \_\_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_(print)

\_\_\_\_\_(print)

\_\_\_\_\_(signature)

\_\_\_\_\_(signature)

Our contact information follows:

Phone numbers: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Application: (M) (D) (Y)

# WEDDING GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION, cont.

*Marriage, Member's Guide, Chapter 8, published by the General Assembly of the True Jesus Church*

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## I. Marriage

Marriage was instituted by God as an important part of life; therefore, it ought to be honored by all (Gen 2:8, 22-24; Heb 13:4). Marriage of members should be grounded on the teachings of the Bible. Monogamy must be observed (Mal 2:15). Marriage between members should be encouraged (Deut 7:3-4; Neh 13:23-27; Josh 23:11-13; I Cor 9:5; 2 Cor 6:14). Ministers and board members of the local church are to provide necessary assistance and counseling to members who are ready for marriage.

## II. Choice of spouse

The choice of a spouse should be based primarily upon faith and virtue (I Pet 3:1-5; I Tim 2:9-10). Those involved should pray constantly for the guidance of the Lord.

## III. Engagement

Should the couple decide to have an engagement ceremony, they are encouraged to invite the ministers and board members of the local church to witness it. It is advised that the ceremony be kept simple, and that the engagement be announced to the congregation at the following Sabbath service.

## IV. Guidelines for the engaged couple

The two who are engaged should treat each other with holiness and purity. The Church ministers will not officiate at the wedding ceremony of those who have committed fornication prior to marriage.

## V. Preparation for the matrimony service

1. The engaged couple or their parents should contact the church board at least one month prior to the scheduled wedding date, in order to make the appropriate arrangements. The Church should also initiate contact on this matter as early as possible, and provide guidance to ensure that the ceremony is performed according to the teachings of God. The assignment of personnel, decoration of the wedding site, and proceedings for the ceremony should be arranged by the couple and the Church in advance.
2. It is advisable to announce the wedding date to the congregation at least two weeks in advance, so that members may make arrangements to attend.
3. Rehearsal before the wedding ceremony is needed to ensure that all goes smoothly.

## VI. Things to be aware of concerning the matrimony service

1. If the wedding is to be held in the chapel, avoid any decoration of the chapel. Guests should be seated by the ushers, who are also responsible for maintaining order during the service. No smoking is allowed.
2. The number of photographers should be limited, and they should not ascend the podium.
3. Avoid holding the matrimony service on the Sabbath day.
4. Flowers, confetti, and the like should not be thrown in the chapel.
5. The church chapel is to be used for wedding ceremonies in which both parties are members of the church. The chapel may not be used for weddings in which one of the couple is a non-member.
6. Church ministers will officiate at weddings of members in places other than our Church chapel only with the approval of the church committee and the ministers. The use of other church chapels by our members is discouraged.
7. Church ministers will not participate in the wedding program of a couple if one party is a non-Christian. If one party is a believer of another Christian denomination, the minister may participate in the wedding ceremony; however, he may not officiate.

## VII. Things to be aware of after matrimony

*(Things to be aware of after matrimony, cont.)*

1. The wedded couple must be filial to the parents of both parties, in Christ (Eph 6:1-3). The husband should love his wife; the wife should respect her husband. The couple will share everything, good and bad, love and help each other, and serve the Lord fervently together (Eph 5:22-28).
2. Husband and wife are joined by God, and become one body (Gen 2:24; Eph 5:31). Therefore, divorce is not permitted except when one party has committed adultery (Mk 10:6-12; Mt 5:3).
3. If one party has passed away, the surviving partner may remarry, but let him/her be married in the Lord (I Cor 7:39).
4. Contraception
  - a. Contraceptive methods that work by preventing fertilization are allowed, e.g. rhythm method, birth control pills, condom, diaphragm, cervical cap, tubal ligation, vasectomy, etc.
  - b. Contraceptive methods that work by elimination of the fertilized egg are prohibited, e.g. loop, IUD, abortion (including abortive drugs), etc.
5. Abortion is forbidden unless the mother's life is in danger.
6. Artificial fertilization is not allowed, unless it only involves the couple itself.

VIII. Homosexuality is strictly forbidden

Homosexuality is an abomination to God (Rom 1:26-27). God destroyed Gomorrah because of this sort of sexual immorality (Gen 19:1-9). Church members are absolutely forbidden to participate in such activities.

# WEDDING GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION, cont.

*Marriage and Relationship between A Husband and His Wife*, Essential Biblical Doctrines booklet, Chapter 19, published by the International Assembly of the True Jesus Church

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## I. MARRIAGE

### A. Marriage Is Instituted by God

God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him" (Gen 2:18-23; cf. Gen 24:12-14; Mk 10:9; I Cor 11:11).

### B. Marriage Is Honorable by All (Heb 13:4)

1. Do not choose a partner indiscriminately, rather, choose carefully (Gen 6:2)
2. Do not defile the marriage bed (Heb 13:4)  
Jacob was engaged to Rachel for seven years, yet he kept himself apart from her until they got married (Gen 29:20, 21; cf. Mt 1:18, 19; 2 Cor 11:2).

### C. Do Not be Married with Unbelievers (Deut 7:3, 4; Josh 23:11-13)

1. Abraham made Eliezer, his servant, swear he would not marry Isaac to a Canaanite woman (Gen 24:2-4).
2. Solomon sinned against God because he married pagan women (Neh 13:23-27).
3. This law still stands in the New Testament—do not marry unbelievers (I Cor 7:39; 2 Cor 6:14-18).

### D. Monogamy Is the Original Lawful Institution

1. God created one man and one woman in the beginning (Gen 2:25; cf. Mal 2:15).
2. The two become one flesh (Gen 2:24; Eph 5:31).
3. A man with two wives, both of which he married before his Christian conversion, should not be ordained as a minister (1 Tim 3:2, 12; Tit 1:6).

### E. Is Divorce Lawful?

1. Paul said, "But if the unbelieving partner desires to separate, let it be so" (I Cor 7:15). But he continued saying to the believing spouse, "How do you know whether you will save your husband?" (I Cor 7:16; cf. I Pet 3:1). Here, Paul implies a deserted spouse may not divorce because he or she may possibly save the unbelieving spouse. Generally speaking, if a wife separates, Paul counsels that she should remain single or else be reconciled to her husband (Mk 10:11, 12; I Cor 7:11); for divorce is an indignation to God (Mal 2:16).
2. Only under one condition can believers be divorced—when one spouse commits adultery and the other remains faithful (Mt 5:31, 32, 19:8, 9; cf. Deut 22:20, 21).

### F. After the death of her husband, a woman may be married again (Rom 7:2, 3; 1 Cor 7:8, 9, 39).

### G. Celibacy Is Good for the Ministry

1. It is good for ministers of the church to remain celibate, however, celibacy is a gift of God (I Cor 7:25-35; cf. Mt 19:10-12).
2. The church should not forbid marriage (1 Tim 4:1-3).

### H. Parents Should Concern Themselves With Their Children's Marriage

1. Be sure to guide your children to follow God's will in marriage (Gen 24:1-6, 28:1-3).
2. It is a great sin to make your daughter a prostitute (Lev 19:29; Deut 23:17).
3. Never bring the money made in prostitution into God's temple (Deut 23:18).

## II. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A HUSBAND AND HIS WIFE

### A. How Should A Husband Treat His Wife?

1. As Christ loves the church, so should a husband love his wife as his own body (Eph 5:25, 28, 29).
2. A husband ought to honor his wife, and he should be considerate of her weaknesses (I Pet 3:7)
3. Never mistreat your wife (Col 3:19; Mal 2:16).
4. Take your wife's opinions into account (I Cor 7:3-5).

*(How Should A Husband Treat His Wife, cont.)*

5. Live joyfully with your wife (Eccl 9:9; cf. Gen 24:67; Song 4:7-15).
6. A prudent wife is a gift from the Lord (Prov 18:22, 19:14).

**B. How Should A Wife Treat Her Husband?**

1. As the church submits to Christ, so should a wife submit herself to her husband (Eph 5:22-24; Col 3:18; I Pet 3:1-5).
2. The wife respects her husband, just as Sarah called Abraham lord (Eph 5:33; I Pet 3:6).
3. The wife does not rule over her own body, just as a husband doesn't rule over his own body (I Cor 7:3-5).
4. The wife should help her husband, just as Eve was Adam's helper (Gen 2:18).
5. Proverbs 31:10-31 highly extols a virtuous wife:
  - She does her husband good all the days of her life (v.12).
  - She is hardworking and efficient (vv. 13, 18, 19, 24).
  - She is good at housekeeping (vv. 15, 16, 21, 24, 27).
  - She is kind and tender (v. 20).
  - She has wisdom (v. 26).
  - She fears God (v. 30).All wives are exhorted to be virtuous wives.
6. Women should not emphasize outward adorning, rather, they should adorn themselves with sobriety and inner virtues (I Tim 2:9-11; I Pet 3:3-5).
7. A depraved woman is like rotteness in the bones of her husband (Prov 12:4, 21:9; Judg 16:15-21).
8. Modern feminist thought often criticizes the biblical view of women and wives, however, one must always keep humility and love in mind. A husband and wife relationship is built on love, not authority.