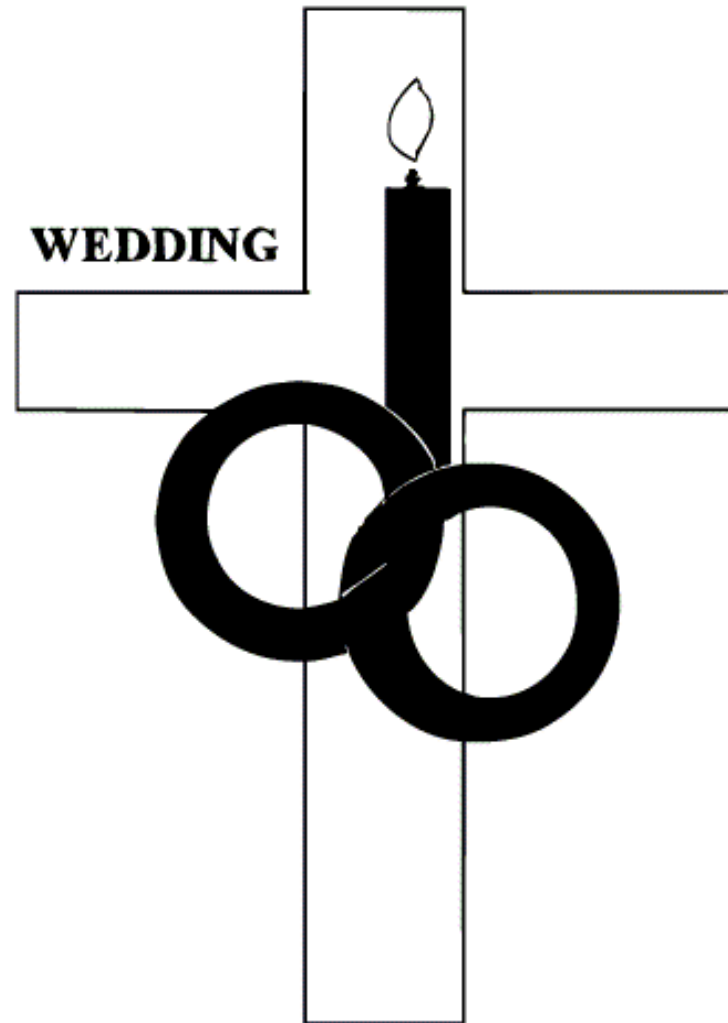


You want to Get Married?



Good!

We would love to work with you! It is our conviction that the marriage of a man and woman is God's best plan for the family. When a man and woman marry they establish a family and the family is the basic unit of society.

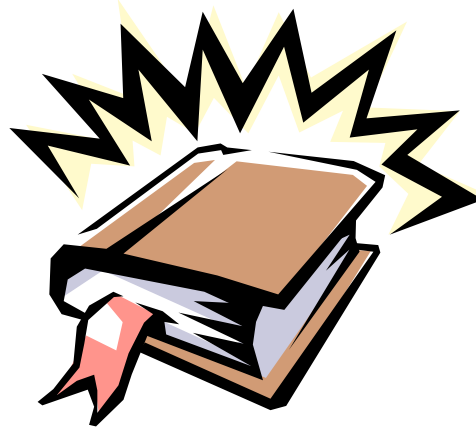
The Bible has much to say about marriage. God talks about marriage starting with Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden. ***"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Genesis 2:24*** Jesus added the declaration ***"Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." Mark 10:9*** Paul the apostle compares the marriage relationship to the relationship that Jesus has with the church. ***"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her..." Ephesians 5:25*** Since the marriage relationship reflects God's relationship with mankind, marriage is vital to the spiritual and social well being of our society.

Because marriage is so vitally important we take it very seriously. It's our desire to help people to establish solid lifelong loving marriages. We know that that's what you want too. That's why we are asking you to do these three things between now and your wedding:

- 1. Walk:** Walk with us through a 10 to 12 week pre-marriage counseling process. This is a Bible study that focuses on Biblical principles for marriage.
- 2. Wait:** Wait until after your wedding to live together and save sex for marriage.
- 3. Work:** Work on your relationship more than on the plans for the wedding day.

Walking with us through a pre-marriage course on Biblical principles is a process of meeting regularly with a "Mentor Couple" who will work through a series of Bible Study lessons on such topics as:

- 🕒 The Marriage Covenant.
- 🕒 Roles and Responsibilities.
- 🕒 Sex
- 🕒 Finances
- 🕒 Children



The Biblical commandments, examples and metaphors provide a solid foundation on which to build the marriage relationship.

Waiting until after the wedding to live together and to have sexual relations is a Biblical principle. The Bible is clear that sex is to be confined to the bonds of marriage. When a couple decides to live together before marriage, they disregard this principle. We believe that this contributes greatly to marriage problems and divorce.

If a couple is already sexually active or living together this is the time to do the right thing. Repent and ask God to forgive your sin. Then live apart and save sexual intimacy until after you've declared your covenant before God and your family and friends as witnesses.

Working on your relationship instead of focusing all your attention on the wedding is a wise thing to do because your wedding lasts for a day and your marriage is for a life time. All couples need to learn how to communicate effectively. In addition to this there may be personal issues that one or both of you need to work out and resolve. Things like failings in past relationships, hurts from the past, bitterness and anger issues; these are all things that can and should be discussed and addressed before you get married. Engagement is a time to discuss and work on potential problems before you get married. Then, when issues arise after you become married you can deal with them more effectively.

Rod Lawrence
Luke 2:52 Ministries
400 Market Place
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
(574) 806-4445