



MARRIAGE

Engaged

Getting Ready for Marriage

Congratulations on this wonderful milestone. Few seasons in life are filled with as much joy and anticipation as the time spent preparing to get married. You've probably heard it said that as you plan your wedding, you shouldn't forget to plan your marriage. But it sounds so abstract to "*plan a marriage*" in the midst of the more tangible (and demanding) project of planning a wedding. How do you do it?

STEP ONE

Discover the Purpose of Marriage

A wedding is bigger than you as an individual and even bigger than you both as a couple. Ephesians 5 describes a couple laying down their lives for one another and becoming one as an icon of God's sacrificial love for His church. That's the counter-cultural call of Christian marriage. Consider reading one of the books suggested in the Going Further section together to deepen your understanding of the larger purpose of your union. Greater understanding of this purpose will be made in steps two through four.

STEP TWO

Learn from Others

Research demonstrates the long-term value of making time now for marriage education classes or premarital counseling. Those efforts go even further when you supplement them by spending time with an older married couple whose relationship you admire. The community of believers in the church is a gift of God. Learning from wise couples an observing God honoring marriages will help you understand the commitment that God requires in marriage.

STEP THREE

Plan with Patience

Couples often overlook the importance of using the wedding planning season as practical marriage preparation. You can intentionally set the tone for your marriage by the values you live out in planning your big day. The transformational process of “becoming one” can occur in everything from how you assemble your guest list to how you determine a honeymoon destination. Consider beginning the habit of a weekly date night or times of intentional connection to set a foundation for your marriage.

STEP FOUR

Create a Meaningful Event

Our culture today can often put more emphasis on “the big day” than preparing for a lifetime together. That’s not to say big celebrations are out of order, but many risk making them so complex that they fail to honor God or the community they are uniting - both of which are the basis for a strong Christian marriage.

During this special time of engagement, be intentional to draw close to the Lord and to each other as you establish a firm foundation for your marriage.

Resources

Preparing For Marriage God’s Way by Wayne A. Mack

When Sinners Say “I Do”: *Discovering the Power of the Gospel for Marriage* by Dave Harvey

Letters to a Romantic on Engagement by Sean Perron and Spencer Harmon

Catching Foxes by John Henderson

- A study for engaged couples that includes reading material and discussion questions. Best used with a mentor couple.

Calvary Bible Church SUPPORT

Life Groups

Calvary offers a variety of LifeGroups for every season of life. Consult the LifeGroup Guide at the information booth to find one that fits your schedule and family life-stage.

Premarital Counseling

If you do not have a relationship with a Calvary Pastor who will be conducting your wedding and wish to go through pre-marital counseling call the church office at 269-372-1130.

Calvary Weddings

For information on scheduling a wedding at the church or with a Calvary pastor call the church office at 269-372-1130.