

²¹ And further, you will submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² You wives will submit to your husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of his body, the church; he gave his life to be her Savior. ²⁴ As the church submits to Christ, so you wives must submit to your husbands in everything.

²⁵ And you husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church. He gave up his life for her ²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God's word. ²⁷ He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. ²⁸ In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man is actually loving himself when he loves his wife. ²⁹ No one hates his own body but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for his body, which is the church. ³⁰ And we are his body.

³¹ As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." ³² This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. ³³ So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.¹

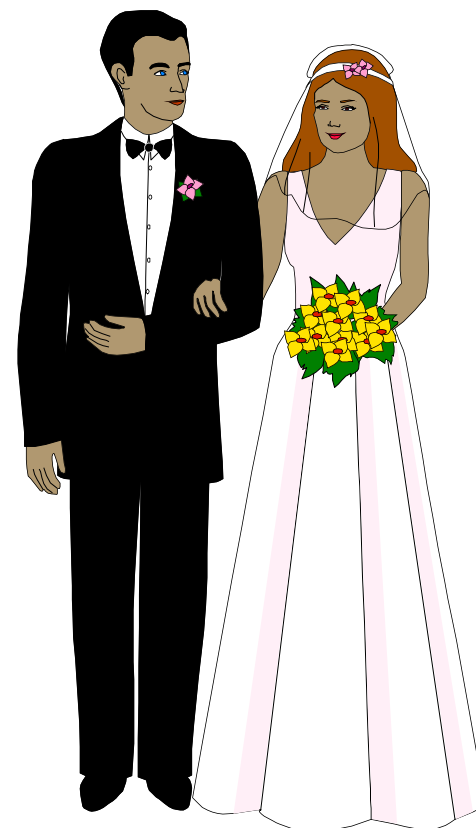


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Elk Point Baptist Church

Wedding Policies



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¹Ephesians 5, *Holy Bible, New Living Translation*,
(Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.) 1996.

WEDDING POLICIES



The Marriage Covenant is established by God and is essential to His very nature. It is to be viewed with dignity and sobriety. As any biblical covenant it is both inclusive and exclusive by its application. The Christian ceremony provides for the inclusion of the groom and bride with the Lord in the marriage. It also excludes all other relationships and therefore the ceremony should be public and under the auspices of the Church and its government. As in all biblical covenants it is essentially typical of the Gospel message and should be entered into with evangelical fervour.

It is important to remember that getting married is, first of all, a spiritual matter. Christian marriage is clearly taught many places within the Bible. Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:1-9; and Ephesians 5:21-33.

The pastors and this congregation believe it is our responsibility to help you prepare, not just for your wedding, but your marriage. We believe that:

1. Scripture teaches that a believer should not marry an unbeliever (i.e., a Christian should not marry a non-

Christian) (2Corinthians 6:14). It is vital and essential for your marriage that you are in agreement on the fundamentals of your faith.

2. Scripture teaches that the sexual union is a gift from God to those who are already married. The Bible clearly teaches that premarital sex is a sin against God and one's partner (1Corinthians 6:18; Ephesians 5:3; and 1Thessalonians 4:3-8).

3. In order to strengthen the foundation of your marriage, we believe that all couples married through our church attend a premarital counselling course through the pastors or approved by the pastors.

4. That the pastoral staff are servants of this congregation and are under the authority of God's Word and this congregation. They are not licensed to perform weddings. The pastors will coordinate with a couple the inclusion of a Marriage Commissioner certified for the Province of Alberta or arrange a wedding ceremony immediately following a civil legal proceeding.

5. The Elk Point Baptist Church facility shall only be used by those couples who are being married by the pastors of this church or could have been married by the pastors of this

church had there not been for extenuating circumstances. Such a decision will be made by the Elders Council.

6. Guidelines cannot cover all instances. There will be instances that will arise that will require the pastors and elders to consider certain unique situations within the context of Scripture and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

