

HOPE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Moorestown

235 W. Main Street | Moorestown, NJ 08057

Dear prospective bride & groom,

One of the most important commitments a person can make, aside from your decision to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, is to have a marriage centered on Jesus Christ. There are few life decisions that will have as great an impact upon your life and therefore, should be approached prayerfully, patiently, and honestly.

To better assist you in your desire to be married, it is necessary for you to first complete and return the enclosed questionnaires, including the parental blessing forms. Once I have received the completed application, we will be able to schedule a more in-depth, personal discussion about the prospect of your wedding. My ability to agree to perform your wedding is something I will be praying and thinking through as you return the following application to me and as the three of us get to share a follow-up interview time together.

May God's guidance and blessing be felt and followed by you both.

Sincerely in Christ,



Rev. Andrew Bonaventura
HOPE Community Church *Moorestown*
235 W. Main St.
Moorestown, NJ 08057
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MARRIAGE GUIDELINES

My desire is that that your marriage be all that God intended it to be and that it be the most meaningful relationship possible. In God's creating man and woman He intended that they be joined in marriage to bring God highest honor and glory through their lives together. Since God designed the marriage relationship, it is clear He knows how to build a healthy marriage. As we read His Word, there are basic principles which must be understood and applied if a couple hopes to experience joy and fulfillment in their marriage. Ignoring these principles will result in a breakdown and possible failure of the marriage relationship.

Because I am committed to building strong Christian marriages, here are important up-front guidelines:

1. Participation in Marriage Preparation Training or its equivalency is required for couples who desire to be married. Usually, a minimum of six months of premarital preparation before the wedding date is required.
2. Couples having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord must also share a commitment to establishing a marriage centered unreservedly on Jesus Christ and God's design for their marriage.
3. Couples must remain sexually pure and not live together at any time prior to the wedding ceremony.
4. The blessing of the parents on the marriage is important, first of all because children are instructed by God to "*Honor your father and mother,*" and secondly, because of the promise God gives to the couple "*That it may go well with you*" (Ephesians 6:2-3). This is especially important for younger couples seeking to be married.
5. If your spouse has died, you are clearly Biblically free to remarry (Romans 7:2-3, I Corinthians 7:39).

If seeking remarriage after a divorce

Both divorce and remarriage are complicated. Among all human relationships, marriage is most unique. Only marriage is set apart by God to signify to the world the relationship between Jesus and the church, the very bride of Christ (Eph. 5:21-33). In light of this, the divorcing (breaking) of this bond is extraordinary among all human bonds. The elders of our local church recognize that there are many complicated factors and variables in each marriage and we will prayerfully and Biblically seek wisdom as we discern each case on its own merits in light of the clear direction of Scripture. Those who have been divorced must prayerfully consider remarriage in light of these Biblical teachings:

- divorce occurring because of sexual immorality by your former spouse (Matthew 5:32; 19:3-12)
- a believer seeking remarriage has been abandoned by an unbelieving spouse (I Corinthians 7:15-16)
- the former spouse initiated divorce and has since remarried (Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18; Romans 7:1-3)
- divorce occurring before becoming born again as a Christian (II Corinthians 5:17)

If seeking remarriage, please study the passages above and view your situation in light of the Bible. I also strongly recommend getting a copy of the short book, Divorce and Remarriage by Tony Evans (2012, Moody Publishers) and reading through it prayerfully. If, after studying these passages, you still seek remarriage, please call for an appointment with the Pastor to discuss before completing anything further in this packet.

BRIDE'S PREMARITAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Today's Date: _____ *Desired Wedding Date:* _____

BRIDE _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____
TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ - _____
HOME PHONE (____) _____ WORK PHONE (____) _____ X _____
FAX NUMBER (____) _____ CELL PHONE(____) _____

Do you attend church? _____ How long? _____

Please specify which church you attend. _____

Pastor's Name: _____ Phone: _____

How often do you attend church? _____

Engagement Period

How long have you known each other? _____

How long have you been dating? _____

When were you officially engaged? _____

Projected wedding date: _____

Beliefs

Marriage is to honor God and follow His guidelines as written in the Bible. Premarital classes, counseling and questionnaires are presented from this perspective. Are these guidelines agreeable to you? **Yes** ___ **No** ___

Are you a born again Christian? **Yes** ___ **No** ___ **Unsure** ___

Describe in your own words being "born again." _____

Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord & Savior? **Yes** ___ **No** ___ **When and How so?** _____

Have you been baptized as a believer by immersion? **No** ___ **Yes** ___ If yes, when and where? _____

Briefly describe your current Christian walk – how you are following Jesus and growing closer to Him. _____

Briefly state your views regarding the authority of the Bible and its place in your life. _____

II Corinthians states: "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers." With this in mind, is your fiancé a born again Christian? **Yes** ___ **No** ___

Briefly describe your fiancé's conversion: _____

If you were to clearly and concisely explain to another person how he/she can "become a Christian," what would you tell him/her – what is the fundamental core of what you'd want them to know? _____

What part does Jesus Christ have in your relationship?

Circle one of the following statements that best describes where you are spiritually:

I do not believe in Jesus and am unwilling to follow.

I do not believe in Jesus but I am willing to consider it as an option.

I do believe in Jesus but I am unwilling to follow Him fully.

I do believe in Jesus and want to follow Him fully, but sometimes I struggle.

I do believe in Jesus, and I am committed to follow Him fully.

Marital Status

Have you been married before? _____ How many times? _____

If so, are you now: Separated () Divorced () Widowed ()

Is the divorce final? ___ When? _____

Why was the marriage terminated? (Please be specific.) _____

Were you a Christian at the time of your divorce? _____

Was this person that you divorced a Christian? _____

Have you studied the Scriptures about divorce? ___ If so, what do the Scriptures say in relation to your divorce? _____

Did you try reconciling? ___ What was the result? _____

Do you have children? ___ Ages: _____

Explain custody and visitation arrangements: _____

General Questions

1) As you approach marriage, what would be the greatest challenge that you believe you will be facing as a wife? _____

What are some of the challenges you are facing in relation to friends and family regarding marriage? _____

Have you ever, or are you now, living together? Yes _____ No _____

Are you willing to live apart until your wedding day? Yes _____ No _____

Are you, or have you been, sexually active together? Yes _____ No _____

Are you willing to abstain from sexual activity until your wedding day? Yes _____ No _____

What are your career plans once you are married? _____

8) What is your commitment as a couple to reading the Bible and praying together? _____

9) What are your views of the roles and responsibilities of the husband and of the wife respectively?

Husband's: _____

Wife's: _____

10) In regard to having and raising children, what are the goals you have discussed together? _____

Parents' Blessing

Do your parents give their unreserved blessing on your marriage? _____ If they have concerns, what are they? _____

Are you willing to honor your father and mother and wait until you have their blessing before you proceed with your marriage? _____

***One of the requirements is to submit a completed form containing the parents' blessing.** The enclosed Parent's Blessing forms must be sent to the church along with this Pre-marital Questionnaire in order to proceed with your wedding.

GROOM'S PREMARITAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Today's Date: _____ *Desired Wedding Date:* _____

GROOM _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____
TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
HOME PHONE (____) _____ WORK PHONE (____) _____ X _____
FAX NUMBER (____) _____ CELL PHONE (____) _____

Do you attend church? _____ How long? _____

Which church do you attend? _____

Pastor's Name: _____ Phone: _____

How often do you attend church? _____

Engagement Period

How long have you known each other? _____

How long have you been dating? _____

When were you officially engaged? _____

Projected wedding date: _____

Beliefs

Marriage is to honor God and follow His guidelines as written in the Bible. Premarital classes, counseling and questionnaires are presented from this perspective. Are these guidelines agreeable to you? **Yes** ___ **No** ___

Are you a born again Christian? **Yes** ___ **No** ___ **Unsure** ___

Describe in your own words being "born again." _____

Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord & Savior? **Yes** ___ **No** ___ **When and How so?** _____

Have you been baptized as a believer by immersion? **No** ___ **Yes** ___ If yes, when and where? _____

Briefly describe your current Christian walk – how you are following Jesus and growing closer to Him. _____

Briefly state your views regarding the authority of the Bible and its place in your life. _____

II Corinthians states: "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers." With this in mind, is your fiancé a born again Christian? **Yes** ___ **No** ___

Briefly describe your fiancé's conversion: _____

If you were to clearly and concisely explain to another person how he/she can "become a Christian," what would you tell him/her – what is the fundamental core of what you'd want them to know? _____

What part does Jesus Christ have in your relationship?

Circle one of the following statements that best describes where you are spiritually:

I do not believe in Jesus and am unwilling to follow.

I do not believe in Jesus but I am willing to consider it as an option.

I do believe in Jesus but I am unwilling to follow Him fully.

I do believe in Jesus and want to follow Him fully, but sometimes I struggle.

I do believe in Jesus, and I am committed to follow Him fully.

Marital Status

Have you been married before? _____ How many times? _____

If so, are you now: Separated () Divorced () Widowed ()

Is the divorce final? ___ When? _____

Why was the marriage terminated? (Please be specific.) _____

Were you a Christian at the time of your divorce? _____

Was this person that you divorced a Christian? _____

Have you studied the Scriptures about divorce? ___ If so, what do the Scriptures say in relation to your divorce? _____

Did you try reconciling? ___ What was the result? _____

Do you have children? _____ Ages: _____

Explain custody and visitation arrangements: _____

General Questions

1) As you approach marriage, what would be the greatest challenge that you believe you will be facing as a husband? _____

What are some of the challenges you are facing in relation to friends and family regarding marriage? _____

Have you ever, or are you now, living together? Yes _____ No _____

Are you willing to live apart until your wedding day? Yes _____ No _____

Are you, or have you been, sexually active together? Yes _____ No _____

Are you willing to abstain from sexual activity until your wedding day? Yes _____ No _____

What are your career plans once you are married? _____

8) What is your commitment as a couple to reading the Bible and praying together? _____

9) What are your views of the roles and responsibilities of the husband and of the wife, respectively?

Husband's: _____

Wife's: _____

10) In regard to having and raising children, what are the goals you have discussed together? _____

Parents' Blessing

Do your parents give their unreserved blessing on your marriage? _____ If they have concerns, what are they? _____

Are you willing to honor your father and mother and wait until you have their blessing before you proceed with your marriage? _____

***One of the requirements is to submit a completed form containing the parents' blessing.** The enclosed Parent's Blessing forms must be sent to the church along with this Pre-marital Questionnaire in order to proceed with your wedding.

Dear Parents of the Bride,

Your daughter has requested my pastoral involvement with her upcoming wedding. One of the things I honor very highly is the parents' blessing upon the marriage. One of God's commands is "Honor your father and mother." This commandment is also given with two promises: "that it may go well with you," and "that you may enjoy long life on the earth." (Ephesians 6:2, 3)

God certainly honors this commandment and its promises. Unfortunately, devastation can also result in the lives of those who do not honor their parents. Because of this, I want to know if you have given your unreserved blessing on your daughter's marriage. Enclosed is a questionnaire I choose to use in asking parents if they give their blessing on the marriage. Please consider the questions carefully as you fill out the enclosed form. When completed, please return the form to your daughter so she may return it to me.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please call me at the church office using any of the contact info listed below.

Thank you for your valuable input.

Sincerely in Christ,

Andrew Bonaventura

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Parents' Blessing (Bride)

Mother's Name _____ Phone # _____
Father's Name _____ Phone # _____

Bride's Name _____ Groom's Name _____

Please answer these questions and return to your daughter immediately.

Mother's Signature _____ *date* _____

Do you have reservations about this couple getting married? Yes ___ No ___

Any special concerns about the bride? Yes ___ No ___

Any special concerns about the groom? Yes ___ No ___

If so... What are these concerns? _____

How do you wish for the wedding plans to continue?

To go forward as planned? Yes ___ No ___ To stop? Yes ___ No ___

To slow down? Yes ___ No ___ To speed up? Yes ___ No ___

Please explain: _____

Father's Signature _____ *date* _____

Do you have reservations about this couple marrying? Yes ___ No ___

Any special concerns about the bride? Yes ___ No ___

Any special concerns about the groom? Yes ___ No ___

If so... What are these concerns? _____

How do you wish for the wedding plans to continue?

To go forward as planned? Yes ___ No ___ To stop? Yes ___ No ___

To slow down? Yes ___ No ___ To speed up? Yes ___ No ___

Please explain: _____

Dear Parents of the Groom,

Your son has requested my pastoral involvement with her upcoming wedding. One of the things I honor very highly is the parents' blessing upon the marriage. One of God's commands is "Honor your father and mother." This commandment is also given with two promises: "that it may go well with you," and "that you may enjoy long life on the earth." (Ephesians 6:2, 3)

God certainly honors this commandment and its promises. Unfortunately, devastation can also result in the lives of those who do not honor their parents. Because of this, I want to know if you have given your unreserved blessing on your son's marriage. Enclosed is a questionnaire I choose to use in asking parents if they give their blessing on the marriage. Please consider the questions carefully as you fill out the enclosed form. When completed, please return the form to your son so he may return it to me.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please call me at the church office using any of the contact info listed below.

Thank you for your valuable input.

Sincerely in Christ,

Andrew Bonaventura

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Parents' Blessing (Groom)

Mother's Name _____ Phone # _____
Father's Name _____ Phone # _____

Bride's Name _____ Groom's Name _____

Please answer these questions and return to your son immediately.

Mother's Signature _____ ***date*** _____

Do you have reservations about this couple getting married? Yes ___ No ___

Any special concerns about the bride? Yes ___ No ___

Any special concerns about the groom? Yes ___ No ___

If so... What are these concerns? _____

How do you wish for the wedding plans to continue?

To go forward as planned? Yes ___ No ___ To stop? Yes ___ No ___

To slow down? Yes ___ No ___ To speed up? Yes ___ No ___

Please explain: _____

Father's Signature _____ ***date*** _____

Do you have reservations about this couple marrying? Yes ___ No ___

Any special concerns about the bride? Yes ___ No ___

Any special concerns about the groom? Yes ___ No ___

If so... What are these concerns? _____

How do you wish for the wedding plans to continue?

To go forward as planned? Yes ___ No ___ To stop? Yes ___ No ___

To slow down? Yes ___ No ___ To speed up? Yes ___ No ___

Please explain: _____
