



*Quail Lakes
Baptist Church
Wedding
Information
Packet*

Preparing for a Wedding at Quail Lakes Baptist Church

The pastors wish to help people confirm their readiness for marriage by asking probing questions which will help them gain deeper certainty about whether this is the right time and right person for marriage, and to what extent the relational skills are present for success and happiness. The pastors further reserve the right at any time to advise against marriage or require additional counseling sessions if unexpected needs or problems come to light.

Basic requirements for a wedding with one of the Quail Lakes pastors in the Quail Lakes Baptist Church facilities:

1. Evidence of personal maturity on the part of both persons sufficient to sustain them through the normal periodic stresses of a permanent relationship.
2. Agree with the Scriptures in II Corinthians 6:14 which state that believers should not be yoked together with unbelievers. We cannot officiate in a wedding where one is a born-again believer and the other is not.
3. Any previous broken marriage must be thought through in light of Scripture. (A separate page explains this further.)
4. The couple must be committed to the biblical standard of sexual purity, agreeing that it is God's plan to reserve the sexual relationship exclusively for marriage. If a couple has been sexually active, they will be expected to adapt a biblical lifestyle of sexual abstinence until marriage. If a couple is living together, we will need to discuss ways to resolve the appearance of a compromise from biblical lifestyle before proceeding further with pre-marriage conferences. For further explanation, recommended reading: *Moral Purity* by Charles Swindoll.
5. Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman and Himself, Quail Lakes Baptist Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the pastors and staff of Quail Lakes Baptist Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of Quail Lakes Baptist Church shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.
6. A signed premarital contract is to be submitted.
7. The cost for premarital materials is \$100.

The pastor will commit himself to officiate at your wedding only after several important components are covered in the pre-marriage conferences. The pastor's commitment to officiate at your wedding will be maintained in accordance with your commitment to the homework assignments and your commitment to the six (6) basic requirements stated above. Church facilities reservations are considered tentative until the pastor has committed himself to officiate at your wedding. Most weddings on the Quail campus are in the Worship Center, but may take place in the Chapel and the outdoor courtyard. The Quail Lakes pastors would also be happy to officiate at your wedding at an off-campus location.

A guest officiating pastor may preside at the QLBC facilities providing a copy of Certificate of Ordination or Licensing to the ministry is submitted, they are current and in good standing in the status, and they are in agreement with the Quail Lakes Baptist Statement of Faith. When a guest officiator is used, an equivalent pre-marriage counseling series is still required.

What Do the Pre-Marriage Conference Sessions Include?

The number of sessions and the content will be outlined at the first session by the pastor you choose. The goal is to stimulate communication between you as a couple bringing a deeper mutual understanding by exploring the similarities and differences in your personalities and backgrounds.

Resources will be selected from the following list:

So You Are Getting Married, by Norm Wright
Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts, by Les & Leslie Parrott
The Five Love Languages, by Gary Chapman
The Total Money Makeover, by Dave Ramsey
Intended for Pleasure, by Ed and Gayle Wheat

Seasonally, Quail Lakes Baptist Church offers “Prepare to Last” which provides input and interaction for a group of couples who are currently preparing for marriage. Information about this additional opportunity will be provided by your officiating Pastor.

If There Has Been a Previous Marriage

The pastoral staff of Quail Lakes Baptist Church desires to reach out with sensitivity and compassion realizing that divorce is one of the most painful and devastating experiences in human relationships. Our goal is to help people use biblical principles to deal with what has happened and offer a biblical basis for the choices they are making, enabling them to move into the future with a solid foundation, standing tall and straight before God and with a deeper inner peace which can insulate from human stigmas and prejudice. Our experience has found the following guidelines helpful...

- As believers in Jesus Christ as Savior, we accept the Bible as our sole authority in faith and practice. Therefore, the dissolution of a previous marriage must be thought through in the light of Scripture passages on this issue to discern whether there is a biblical basis for entering into another marriage. (See Matthew 19:1-12; I Corinthians 7:10-15; II Corinthians 5:17)
- We consider persons to be still married until the divorce is final and therefore believe consideration of another marriage is inappropriate until the dissolution of the previous marriage is complete. We will not proceed with premarital counseling before a divorce is final. The Pastor may ask to see the final divorce papers.
- Since the divorce rate for second marriages is higher than first marriages, it is all the more important that there be adequate time for healing from past hurts as well as a thorough appraisal of maturity in this new relationship. We therefore advise at least one year between the date a divorce is final and the date of a subsequent wedding.
- In an effort to obtain an objective perspective and understanding of the deterioration of the previous relationship, the pastor may ask permission to talk with a former marriage partner.
- Our modern culture is largely ignoring biblical moral standards and when a couple has not kept the biblical standard of sexual purity, we find that they always benefit from confession, forgiveness, and a decision to live a distinctly Christian lifestyle as they prepare for a Christian wedding. We will proceed with pre-marriage counseling only if a couple is committed to sexual abstinence before marriage. If a couple is living together, we will need to discuss ways to resolve this compromise of a biblical lifestyle before proceeding with premarital counseling.

Recommended reading on the subject of divorce and remarriage:

Divorce, by Charles Swindoll

Saving Your Second Marriage Before It Starts, by Les & Leslie Parrott

Moral Purity, Charles Swindoll

PROCEDURE TO SECURE A MARRIAGE LICENSE IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

1. The couple must both be at least 18 years of age. If one or both are not 18, an interview must be scheduled with the Juvenile Probation Department to get a court order to be married. This process usually takes two weeks.

2. Both partners must go to the office of the County Clerk (44 N. San Joaquin Suite 260, 468-2362) Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. with the following:
 - a. Valid government issued picture identification (preferably driver's license). If you are divorced within the last twelve months, you must bring your final divorce documents. If you have been divorced over 12 months you must know the full date of your divorce.

 - b. \$65.00 for public marriage license fee, or \$73.00 for confidential marriage license. (Confidential will not be listed in the newspaper.)

3. Please give your marriage license to the pastor at the wedding rehearsal.

4. Some couples may have a need for a certified copy of their marriage license. To obtain one, send a \$15.00 check made out to "San Joaquin County Recorder" to San Joaquin County Recorder, P.O. Box 1968, Stockton, CA 95201-1968 with a note requesting a certified copy of your marriage license plus your name and address.

Pre-Marriage Counseling Contract

With _____ and _____

Counseling is the most effective when there is openness, honesty and a commitment to learn and grow. Therefore, in order to make the most of the process, the following expectations are stated as a prerequisite for proceeding with the pre-marriage counseling and also as a basis for the Pastor's commitment to officiate at the wedding. After reading and signing this contract is to be handed to the marrying pastor *prior* to the initial premarital counseling session.

1. We accept the responsibility to keep the counseling appointments and to come on time, or to call in advance if an unavoidable conflict arises. We also accept the responsibility to take the initiative to reschedule any missed sessions.
2. We agree to complete homework assignments, to bring our materials with us, and to come ready to discuss what we are learning from the content.
3. We agree to be honest in this process and to be open to learn from how we are perceived by each other and by our counselor.
4. We agree to refrain from sexual relations until our wedding night.
5. We agree to regularly attend Sunday worship during our pre-marriage process.

Prospective Groom

Date

Prospective Bride

Date

Pastor/Counselor's Agreement: I agree to respect the confidentiality of these Pre-Marriage Counseling sessions both during and after the series, and I agree to officiate at the wedding on _____ of the two above named persons, pending their keeping of this contract.

Signed

Date

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens at the premarital interview?

The bride and groom will meet with a member of the ministerial staff to discuss wedding plans and details. Premarital couples also receive information on the requisite premarital counseling at the time of the premarital interview. Specific requirements to be married at Quail Lakes Baptist Church or by a QLBC pastor are also discussed. (See question #2)

Following the interview, the couple will be asked to complete the premarital assessment and six (6) sessions with a premarital counselor. This inventory helps to alert the premarital counselors and marrying pastor to areas that need specific attention. They also help to identify areas of strength in the relationship. The premarital counseling experience is uniquely designed to meet the needs of each couple.

What are the specific requirements to be married at Quail Lakes Baptist Church or by a QLBC pastor?

All premarital couples must complete our six-session counseling program. In addition, the pastors of Quail Lakes Baptist Church have determined the following qualifications, based on Biblical truths:

1) Bride and groom must individually confess a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Quail Lakes Baptist Church will not marry unbelievers, or join an unbeliever to a believer in marriage (*2 Corinthians 6:14-18*). God's Word is clear about spiritual compatibility between marriage partners.

2) Bride and groom must abstain from physical intimacy or living together. We must follow God's directions alone regarding our sexuality. The Bible gives us clear instructions for sex within the parameters of the marriage relationship (*1 Thessalonians 4:3-6*) God's Word also gives us clear warnings and consequences when sex is used outside of the marriage. The couple must be committed to the biblical standard of sexual purity, agreeing that it is God's plan to reserve the sexual relationship exclusively for marriage. If a couple has been sexually active, they will be expected to adapt a biblical lifestyle of sexual abstinence until marriage. If a couple is living together, we will need to discuss ways to resolve the appearance of a compromise from biblical lifestyle before proceeding further with pre-marriage conferences. For further explanation, recommended reading is: *Moral Purity* by Charles Swindoll.

What is the cost of the Quail Lakes Baptist Church premarital counseling program? The cost for members of Quail Lakes Baptist Church is \$100. The cost to non-participants is \$100. This cost covers counseling materials. It also pays for the administration and scoring of the national, standardized PREPARE report. Our premarital counselors are not paid, they have chosen premarital counseling as a special ministry opportunity.

Who does the premarital counseling? Your premarital counseling will be done with a married couple who has received special premarital training. These couples exemplify Christ-centered marriages and they are open and honest about sharing their experiences in their own marriage.

You will work with the same counselors for the full duration of your premarital counseling. Although these counselors are specifically trained in the area of premarital counseling, they are not professional, licensed counselors. They have chosen premarital counseling as their ministry at Quail Lakes Baptist Church.

What do we talk about at the counseling sessions? You will discuss many subjects throughout your time together. These subjects include marital roles and responsibilities; skills for communicating and resolving conflicts; realistic management of finances; your sexual relationship; your family of origin; and much more! Your relationship strengths will be discussed, as well as areas that need growth.

Although the program is designed to cover certain topics, your counselors will design your time together to fit your individual needs. Details of the six sessions are discussed during your premarital interview. Homework assignments are given prior to each session to enhance your understanding (and promote discussion) of the material.

You may call the Quail Lakes Baptist Church office for information on the following:

- Financial counseling
- Blended family support
- Divorce recovery

What should I expect from the premarital counseling experience? You should expect to be challenged, strengthened, educated, and better prepared for your upcoming marriage. You will probably experience some laughs, some tears, and some pleasant surprises!

You should leave your premarital counseling with some problem areas identified, some new marital skills learned, and most importantly - a more realistic expectation of what marriage will be like!

May God richly bless you individually, and as a couple, as you embark on this exciting journey together!

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no man separate." Mark 10:7-9 (NIV)

Wedding Costs
 Quail Lakes Baptist Church
 1904 Quail Lakes Drive, Stockton CA 95207
 209/951-7380

1. Pre-Marriage Counseling materials

Includes: PREPARE assessment and books. (Make checks payable to Quail Lakes Baptist Church, due prior to taking the assessment) \$100 _____

2. Use of QLBC facilities

a. Non-participant:

1) Must first have permission from a QLBC pastor
 2) Sanctuary rental (includes custodian) \$675 _____
 Activity Center is not available for non-member receptions

There is no rental charge for QLBC regular participants for use of facilities for weddings or receptions; however, personnel costs will apply and are given below. Weddings are calendared only after being cleared through the church ministerial staff to avoid conflicts.

b. Activity Center Security/Cleaning Deposit:**(Please make separate check to QLBC.) \$100 _____

Approximate capacity for Reception:
 - 500 standing or chairs only; 250 seated banquet style

c. Custodian's fee for weddings on Mon through Fri: (QLBC participants only, please make check payable to QLBC.)

Wedding (In Sanctuary) \$150 _____
 Wedding (In Chapel) \$100 _____
 Reception (In Activity Center) \$200 _____

3. Services (checks to be made payable to individuals)

a. Wedding Hostess' fee: (Role of hostess explained at first appointment)

Hostess may not be necessary for weddings in the Chapel.
 Wedding only \$100 _____
 Wedding & Reception \$150 _____
 Reception only \$75 _____

b. Sound Technician's fee: Make check payable to sound technician.

Sound Technician may not be necessary for weddings in the Chapel.
 Wedding hostess will contact John Welsh for the person's name prior to wedding.
 (fee includes both rehearsal & ceremony) \$150 _____
 Sound technician at reception \$75 _____
 Sound set up no technician \$40 _____

c. Custodian's fee for weddings on Sat or Sun: Fees are the same as in 2 above except fees are payable to the outside custodian. Wedding hostess will contact Rob Connor for the person's name prior to wedding.

The above fees are to be paid one month before the Wedding and given to your Wedding Hostess. (Sound Tech and Custodian checks are due one week prior to the wedding due to scheduling volunteers.)

4. Honorariums

a. Music: Honorariums/fees for soloists, organist, pianist and other instrumentalists are by mutual agreement between the bride and groom and the individual musician(s) and are paid directly to them.

b. Pastor: Suggested honorarium for officiating Pastor \$150 _____

Total Fees \$ _____

**Security/Cleaning deposit refundable when premises are left in the same condition found (custodian will mop floor) and all decorations and décor furnishings have been removed from the premises.

Typical Order of Service – Wedding

Prelude

Processional

Welcome

Words to the Bride and Groom

Giving away the Bride

Scripture reading

Reflections on Christian marriage

(Special music)

Declaration of Intent

Vows/Rings

(Candle) (Special music)

Prayer of Blessing

Pronouncement

Recessional

Pastor's Wedding Information Form

Quail Lakes Baptist Church

1904 Quail Lakes Drive

(209) 951-7380

(Bring completed to first appointment)

	Bride	Groom
Name		
Street Address		
City, State, Zip		
Home Phone		
Cell Phone		
Work Phone		
Email		
Birthdate		
No. of previous Marriages		
Occupation		
Employer		
Church Membership		
Parent's Name		
Parent's Street Address		
Parents City, State, Zip		
Parent's Phone		

Bride & Groom's Address & Phone After Wedding (if known):

	Wedding	Reception	Rehearsal
Date:			
Hour:			
Place:			
Est. # Of Guests:			
Officiating Pastor(s):			