

WEDDING POLICIES

First Baptist Church
316 Hwy. 78 N.
Blue Ridge, Texas 75424
Office: 972.752.5611; Fax: 972.752.5761

Preparing for Your Special Day

Congratulations! Your upcoming wedding and its preparations are exciting events. And we at First Baptist want it to be a blessed one. The Wedding Day is one of many days of marriage that we want to prepare you for. We believe, as a church, that we have a sacred duty to prepare you for a lifetime of marriage. Most couples want to use a church facility for their wedding. It gives them a sense of having God bless their commitment to each other. We want that to happen.

In order to fulfill our biblical mandate to make your ceremony a sacred one, under God's watch care, we have established the following procedures:

1. **Premarital Counseling** – All couples must have undergone premarital counseling by a Christian minister or counselor. If the counseling is done by someone other than an FBC minister, a letter stating the fulfillment of counseling will be required before a ceremony can be performed in our church. It may be sent to the above address.
2. **Prepare and Enrich Inventory** – All couples must undergo the Prepare/Enrich Marriage Inventories, designed by Life Innovations, Inc., and taken by millions of couples. The inventories explore the strengths and weaknesses of couple's relationship to each other and their families in 11-12 different relational areas. The cost of the inventory is \$_____. The turn around for the evaluation is 2-4 weeks. This evaluation is **not** a pass/fail test. It is designed to give the couple insights into their strengths and weaknesses in a relationship.
3. **Couples Living Together** – Couples living together prior to their wedding will not be permitted to use the church facility for their wedding. Living together prior to marriage disregards God's mandate for a successful marriage. Studies have shown that this type of living condition increases the likelihood of divorce (Cf. *The Top Ten Myths of Divorce*, by David Popenoe; <http://marriage.rutgers.edu/Publications>). If a couple is currently living together and they wish to be married at FBC, they must agree to live at separate residences for a minimum three months prior to the wedding ceremony.
4. **Non-FBC Ministers or Justices of the Peace (JPs) Performing or Assisting in the Ceremony** – Only ordained/licensed, evangelical ministers (or Christian JPs) will be permitted to perform a wedding ceremony at FBC, subject to the approval of the FBC senior pastor (or designated representative in his absence). Any minister may assist an FBC minister, provided the officiating FBC minister has granted an invitation. This is standard protocol in most churches in most denominations. Please discuss this with your FBC minister before any invitation is given to other ministers or a JP.
5. **FBC and/or it's ministers have the right to decline any request for facility usage** – We will be happy to discuss any extenuating circumstance that you feel may preclude you from any the above-mentioned requirements. Any deviation request must be in writing and will be evaluated by a group of church leaders before a change is approved.

I have read and understand all policies, and agree to abide by them as written.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

BIBLICAL STANDARDS IN MARRIAGE

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We, at First Baptist Church of Blue Ridge, believe God intends for one man and one woman to be joined in marriage. To pray for and expect God to bless a marriage, you should know and understand the following things God has said and/or setup for a successful marriage:

1. Both wedding partners must be believers in our Lord Jesus Christ and have made personal commitments to Him for salvation: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18;
2. Same-sex marriages are prohibited: Roman 1:24-32; 1 Corinthians 7:2;
3. Premarital sex is prohibited: Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:18;
4. In marriage, the two become one, meaning that there will be a commitment to working together to ensure a compatible, loving, and respectful companionship: Ephesians 5:22-33;
5. A husband cannot replace a dad, nor can a wife replace a mom—no comparisons allowed! Genesis 2:24;
6. Couples need the help and fellowship of other couples. We, therefore, admonish all couples to establish a regular habit of attending their local church and Bible study classes; Hebrews 10:24-25;
7. We also believe that couples should develop a Christian home. This begins with a devotional time alone and with each other: Deuteronomy 6:4-6; Isaiah 40:31; Jeremiah 29:11-13; John 15:9-14; Acts 10:1-6;
8. If God blesses your home with children, we believe there is an equal responsibility for both parents to care for their children and to bring them up under the influences of the local church: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:20-21.

FAQs:

1. **Can we dance at our reception?** No. The traditional waltz may be permitted for the couple, the bride and her dad, but a reception dance for the guests is not allowed in the facilities of FBC.
2. **Can we serve wine or champagne at our reception?** No. Any and all alcoholic beverages are prohibited on the grounds and in the facilities of FBC.
3. **How much does a wedding cost at FBC?** The price varies, depending on usage. Please obtain a Building Use Request Form for a fee schedule for the usage of our facilities.
4. **Do I have to be a member of FBC to have a wedding there?** No, but there are some premarital requirements that you are expected to abide by. Please obtain a Wedding Policies form before asking for the use of our facilities.
5. **Do you have someone to counsel with us?** Yes. Call our church office during the day for an appointment with a minister.