



New Life Community Church | 1251 North Rice Ave | Oxnard, CA 93030 | 805.983.1890 | www.newlifeoxnard.com



Wedding Policies & Procedures

Congratulations on your decision to share your lives in communion with each other and with God! Outside of making Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior, choosing the one with whom you will spend the rest of your life with is your most significant decision. At New Life Community Church we believe that marriage is a covenant intended by God to be a lifelong relationship between a man and woman.

Now that you're engaged you begin the busy and stressful time of the planning and financial requirements a wedding takes. We pray you will enjoy this special time as you prepare for your new life together.

Please read the following requirements and procedures carefully and complete the application:

❖ Requirements to be married at New Life Community Church and/or by all New Life Pastors:

All couples must complete a minimum of six weeks of premarital counseling. In addition, the pastors of New Life Community 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. New Life Community 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 unity in marriage.
- 2) Bride and groom must abstain from physical intimacy or living together. Sex is a gift from God. He is the one who created it! Therefore, we must follow God's direction alone regarding our sexuality. The Bible gives us clear instructions for sex within the parameters of the marriage relationship (*2 Corinthians 6:3*). God's Word also gives us clear warnings and consequences when sex is used outside of marriage.

While many of those who attend New Life are honoring God through abstaining from sexual intimacy, there are many who do not. Couples who are physically intimate or living together are asked to move apart and covenant with New Life to abstain from their sexual relationship until their wedding day. We would like the opportunity to encourage you to make this commitment with us, understanding that this is God's best for your marriage relationship.

❖ Premarital Counseling:

Premarital counseling is required for all couples being married by a New Life Pastor, and/or if your ceremony is at New Life.

Who does the premarital counseling? Your premarital counseling will be done with a trained

leader from New Life or with a professional, licensed counselor at an approved Christian counseling center. The counseling center fees will be paid directly to them.

At New Life we have a great series of lessons to prepare you for marriage. The classes are led by some incredible couples in our church. Please contact Bambi Johnston in the church office at 983-1890 ext. 130 for more information (i.e. times, dates, fees, etc).

What do we talk about at the counseling sessions? At New Life 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, family, and much more! The program includes DVD sessions and a workbook. Your relationship strengths will be discussed, as well as areas that need growth.

Although the program is designed to cover certain topics, your leaders will design your time together to fit your individual needs. Details of all sessions are discussed during your first class. Homework assignments are given prior to each session to enhance your understanding, and promote discussion of the material.

What should I expect from the premarital counseling experience? Premarital counseling will help prepare you for one of the most important commitments of your life, your new life together! We want you to have more than just a beautiful ceremony. We want you to have an incredible marriage!!

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!

❖ Scheduling your wedding and/or pastor to officiate the ceremony:

How do we schedule our wedding ceremony to be held at New Life? After receiving your completed application, we will begin coordinating with the facilities and Pastoral Staff to accommodate your request. Once the date is confirmed for the facility and with a Pastor to officiate, our Wedding Coordinator will contact you to discuss the deposit needed in order to secure the date. Verification that you have completed pre-marital counseling will be required 2 weeks prior to your ceremony.

What if our ceremony is at another location and would like to ask a New Life pastor to officiate? The application and commitment form must be completed and returned to the New Life office. We will give the date to the pastor requested and then we will notify you of their availability. Pre-marital counseling is still required.

Please note: It is your responsibility to complete pre-marital counseling and schedule an appointment 2 weeks prior to your wedding to go over the details of the ceremony with the wedding coordinator. At that time you will also bring your pre-marital counseling verification.

The New Life Pastors will not attend the rehearsal whether it's at New Life or another location. When you meet with them regarding the ceremony they will get the details needed. Please see the sample "order of ceremony" to assist you when planning the service.

If the ceremony is at New Life the wedding coordinator will touch base with them when they arrive the day of the ceremony to inform them of any details necessary.

Our Pastoral Staff does not require a fee for performing a wedding ceremony; however an appropriate honorarium gift to the officiating Pastor would be \$150 - \$250. Please give your gift directly to the Pastor or the wedding coordinator at New Life.

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)