

Ways to Celebrate Your Marriage

- If you had a civil ceremony: Ask the pastor of Bethlehem to have a service called *the blessing of a civil marriage*, which is very similar to a wedding ceremony.
- If you had a small church ceremony: Plan a party at a future date to gather with your family and friends and even tell them why you got married.

Our Wedding Procedure

1. Have an initial meeting with the pastor *at least four months before your wedding date*.
2. Agree to abide by the contents of this brochure.
3. Receive the Wedding / Blessing handout, which will lead you through our process.
4. Take Prepare, which is a premarital inventory used in the pastoral care process.
5. Meet at least two (2) more times with the pastor to go over the results of Prepare.
6. Attend Worship / Divine Service at Bethlehem at least four (4) times, during the two (2) months before your wedding date (*complete an attendance slip each time*).
7. Pay the minimal fees at least two weeks before your wedding date.

Conclusion

We want to be an eternal blessing to you!
To take the next step towards having your wedding at Bethlehem: contact me with your questions or to schedule an appointment.

- Mobile: 440-292-5915
- Email: RevRLGreen@aol.com

Pastor Green

Connect With Us

Website: www.BLC7500.com

YouTube and Podcast: "Benefit from the Bible"

Facebook: "Bethlehem Parma"

Schedule: Saturday 4; Sunday 9; 440-845-2230

Location: 7500 State Road, Parma, OH 44134

(Last Update: 10-25)

Getting Married at Bethlehem



Introduction

***Congratulations on your engagement
and blessings as you begin your life as
husband and wife!***

At Bethlehem it is our desire to help people who are serious about ♦knowing Jesus, ♦growing in the Bible, and ♦having God's blessing upon their marriage. Since a wedding in a church is a worship service, it is fitting for the bride and the groom to be people who are sorry for their sins and trusting in Jesus for eternal life. For others, it is fitting to have a secular ceremony in a non-church setting.

These words are spoken near the beginning of a Christian wedding service: **Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God and before His Church to witness the**

union of *this man* and *this woman* in holy matrimony. This is an honorable estate instituted and blessed by God in Paradise before humanity's fall into sin.

In marriage we see a picture of communion between Christ and His bride, the Church. Our Lord blessed and honored marriage with His presence and first miracle at Cana in Galilee. This estate is also commended to us by the apostle Paul as good and honorable. Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into inadvisably or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Please continue reading to learn much more about our Biblical view of marriage.

Scripture and Marriage

We believe that marriage is the legal joining of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union.

We believe:

- God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other.
- God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.
- Any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, or

any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

- Marriage is the legal joining of one naturally born man and one naturally born woman in a single, exclusive union ([Genesis 2:18-24](#)).
- Two people of the same sex being united in a single exclusive union – through a wedding, marriage, or ceremony – is contrary to Scripture ([Genesis 19:1-29](#); [Leviticus 20:13a](#); [Romans 1:18-32](#); [1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#); [Jude 1:5-7](#)).

Sin and Forgiveness

The Bible teaches that sin is ultimately against God ([Psalm 51:4](#)) and has separated all people from God ([Isaiah 59:2](#)).

But there is good news:

- Jesus has taken away the sin of the world – *through His sinless living and sacrificial dying!*
- Now, *through repentance and faith in Jesus as our Savior*, our relationship with God has been restored.

If you are interested in learning more, I have some **wonderful, important, amazing** news to share with you!

Living Together

Fornication (*sexual relations between two unmarried persons*) is against God and brings

condemnation upon those who continue in it without repentance ([1 Cor. 6:9-10](#)).

- Living together without sexual relations: Is that living arrangement pleasing to God? When a man and a woman are living together, it certainly gives a hint of sexual immorality. The Bible says: “...among [you](#) [*professing believers in Jesus*] [there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality...](#)” ([Eph. 5:3 NIV](#)).
- Living together with sexual relations: The Bible says: “...of this you can be sure: No immoral... person has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient” ([Eph. 5:5-6 NIV](#)).

Ways to Express Your Repentance and Honor the Lord

- When separating is possible: Stop having sexual relations and live at separate addresses until you are married.
- When separating is difficult / impossible: Stop having sexual relations until you are married and, *as soon as possible*, get married by a justice of the peace or by the pastor of Bethlehem at a small ceremony.