

Marriage

A Picture of God's Love

What is Marriage?

According to God's Word, marriage is an institution, introduced and established by God Himself. Marriage is designed to be monogamous and heterosexual. This means that an individual may only be married to one person and that person must be of the opposite sex.

Marriage involves three essentials: leaving, cleaving and becoming one flesh. 1. Once an individual enters into the married state, he is expected to leave his parents and promise his love primarily to his spouse. 2. The man and woman must cleave to each other, that is to say they must take responsibility for each other's welfare and remain totally devoted and faithful, as a display of loving their mate above all others. 3. Becoming one flesh involves the intimacy and commitment of a sexual union that is reserved only for marriage. A healthy marriage includes all three of these aspects.

What is Divorce?

Divorce is the termination of a marriage relationship between two living people. It was not part of God's design for marriage. He has made it very clear that it is something He strongly opposes.

God permits divorce on one ground, marital unfaithfulness (adultery). It should be noted that though He permits divorce on the grounds of unfaithfulness, He never commands an individual to get divorced. Rather, He challenges those in such a position to do their best to reconcile with their spouse before they consider divorce an option.

Are there any restrictions in the Bible as to whom may get married?

There are a few restrictions in the Bible as to whom may get married. First of all, God has stated that people of close relation may not get married. He has also stated that the guilty party of a divorce should remain unmarried. Thirdly, He has said that a Christian may not marry a non-Christian. God has placed these restrictions upon the institution of marriage in order to keep it from becoming a haphazard practice, devoid of any meaning and significance. He has also put these restrictions in place for our benefit, to protect us from unnecessary physical, emotional or spiritual harm.

A picture of God's love

Ultimately, marriage should serve as an example of Christ's love for His people. Christ not only said He loved us, He showed us He loved us by suffering the penalty we deserved when He died on the cross to pay the price for our sin. Those who wish to enter into the marital state must be willing to love their spouse just as Christ loves us.

Concluding thoughts

The institution of marriage must be protected and treated with the utmost sobriety. It is a beautiful thing and must continue to be viewed as such. This paper has been prepared to assist those considering marriage with their decision. If you have any questions concerning anything on this page, please feel free to contact me.

John Stange
Lead Pastor of Core Creek Community Church

Marriage Application

Bride's Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Groom's Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Desired Wedding Date: _____

Please use the back of this page if you need more room for your answers.

1. Are you in agreement / compliance with our church's doctrines?
2. Have either the bride or groom been divorced? If so, why? (How long ago, if applicable?)
3. Do you regularly attend worship services?
4. Describe your relationship with Jesus Christ.

Bride:

Groom:
5. Do both bride and groom profess to believe in Jesus Christ?
6. Our pastor is bound by sacred oath to only officiate marriages that meet the strict doctrinal standards set forth in our statements of faith. After carefully reading our church's doctrinal position concerning the institution of marriage, can you foresee any reason why our pastor could not in good conscience perform your wedding ceremony?

**Please return forms to:
Core Creek Community Church
1110 Langhorne-Newtown Rd.
Langhorne, PA 19047**

Church Doctrines Concerning Marriage

Marriage

- Marriage is divinely instituted, heterosexual, and monogamous (Genesis 2:24, 2:20-22, 4:1a)
- Marriage involves three essentials; leaving, cleaving and becoming one flesh (Genesis 2:24)
- Marriage is a permanent relationship. As originally designed by God, no one or nothing should sever the relationship (Matthew 19:6)
- Note: A point often overlooked by commentators and Bible students are the words of God as recorded in Genesis (Genesis 2:24; compare Matthew 19:5). At the time of speaking, there were no fathers or mothers on the earth. There weren't even children. Yet God addressed His remarks to parents. He did so by anticipation. What was He doing? He was establishing a principle for all time, namely, one man and woman for life. So at the outset, God underscores the permanency of marriage. A couple are married for life.

Marriage, as God originally designed it, revolves around at least seven features:

1. Companionship - Genesis 2:18, Proverbs 2:17, Malachi 2:14
2. Completion - Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31, 2:18
3. Cohabitations - Genesis 2:25, Hebrews 13:4, 1 Corinthians 7:1-5, Genesis 4:1
4. Children - Genesis 1:28, Psalm 127:3-5
5. Control - Genesis 2:24, Deuteronomy 24:1-4
6. Covenant - Proverbs 2:17, Malachi 2:14-16
7. Christ - Ephesians 5:21-33, 1 Corinthians 11:3, Colossians 3:18-21

Marriage is “indissoluble” ...except for sexual immorality (Greek porneia - adultery, prostitution, incest, homosexuality, sodomy, bestiality).

Divorce

- Divorce was not fed into the computer of God's design for marriage.
- Divorce was not an option in the Garden of Eden.
- Divorce is a human institution.
- Divorce was permitted in Old Testament times because of man's hardness of heart (Matthew 19:8).
- Divorce was granted under Moses NOT to satisfy the whims and wishes of man, but in an effort to control that which had become chaotic. (Deuteronomy 24:1-4)
- Divorce, in the Bible, is always a last ditch option.
- Divorce is permitted in the New Testament for sexual immorality (porneia - adultery, prostitution, incest, homosexuality, sodomy, bestiality).
- Divorce, while permitted, is never commanded. In case of sexual infidelity there is another option - forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Divorce is hated by God (Malachi 2:16). It is important to note that God does NOT say, “I hate those who have been divorced.”

Remarriage

- Divorce and remarriage are permitted where sexual infidelity has occurred (Matthew 19:9).
- Divorce and remarriage are permitted, to the person who has been wronged (Matthew 19:9).
- Divorce and remarriage are not permitted to the person who has committed the wrong. Were he or she to re-marry, adultery would result. Both parties to the new marriage would be guilty of adultery (Matthew 19:9).
- Divorce and remarriage are not options to Christians. Should they divorce they must remain unmarried or be reconciled to one another (1 Corinthians 7:10,11)
- Divorce and remarriage are not options to Christians who are married to non-Christians when the latter insist on holding the marriage together (1 Corinthians 7:12-14)
- Divorce and remarriage are options to Christians when their non-Christian partners insist on severing the relationship (1 Corinthians 7:15-17).
- Divorce and remarriage are options to Christians, under certain well defined circumstances, without sinning (1 Corinthians 7:27, 28a)
- No minister of our Church shall perform the marriage ceremony for any divorced person except that of an innocent party to a divorce, on account of adultery, (sexual immorality) as per Matthew 19:9, and then only after a lapse of one year from the time of granting the divorce.
- Remarriage to a believer is permitted in the event of the death of a spouse (1 Corinthians 7:39)

Requirements of Couples Seeking to Be Married by our Pastor

- Couple must faithfully and regularly attend worship services.
- Couple must participate in counseling sessions with the pastor in the months prior to the wedding. These counseling sessions are designed to prepare the engaged couple for marriage according to the guidelines we are given in the Bible.
- We require that a request to be married be submitted to the church at least two months, or more, prior to the actual ceremony.
- Both the bride or groom must have never been divorced, unless they can prove they were the innocent party in the divorce (as outlined in our doctrines).
- A marriage license must be obtained several weeks in advance of the wedding and submitted to the pastor at least one day prior to the wedding. If a license is not submitted, he cannot legally perform the marriage ceremony.

Core Creek Community Church

Marriage Application

Check List / Policies

1. Pre-marital counseling

In the months prior to your wedding, you will be invited to participate in three, 90 minute sessions with the Pastor. These sessions are required and focus on both spiritual implications and practical suggestions for building a healthy marriage.

2. Date selection

Please double check on the availability of the church building as well as the Pastor you would like to officiate **before you make the final selection of your wedding date**. Some couples make the mistake of doing this backward, only to discover that they have unintentionally chosen a date that conflicts with other activities and obligations.

Generally speaking, the church is available for weddings on Friday evenings or on Saturdays. Please do not choose a date that falls on a Sunday.

3. Building usage

Choose several people who can help arrange chairs before the Rehearsal and again after the Wedding Ceremony.

Choose someone who will be responsible to remove any garbage that may be generated by the Rehearsal or the Wedding Ceremony.

Note: The church will arrange for the building to be cleaned following the Wedding Ceremony.

4. Rehearsal

Typically, the Rehearsal is the evening before the Wedding Ceremony. Please confirm your preferred time with the Pastor several weeks prior to the Rehearsal.

Please invite everyone who will be participating in the actual service (wedding party, parents, flower girl, ring-bearer, Scripture readers, soloists, etc.)

Please give the Pastor a list of your wedding party and anyone else who will be participating in the service, by name, several weeks prior to the Rehearsal.

5. Marriage license

Please contact the County several weeks before the wedding to apply for a marriage license.

Please bring the license with you to the Rehearsal. By law, the Pastor cannot officiate for your wedding without a valid marriage license.

6. Decoration

It is acceptable to decorate the church for the wedding provided that the decorations do not damage

the walls, floors, chairs, exterior of building or any other aspect of the property. If property is damaged, it is the responsibility of the wedding party to pay for damages.

Please arrange for someone to remove all decorations and sweep up any birdseed/flower petals, etc. following the Wedding Ceremony. (This is not the responsibility of the custodian who will be cleaning the building.)

7. The Ceremony

Please note that a wedding ceremony is a worship service, not a pageant or a sit-com. As such, we do not allow for pets, silly music, dance routines, questionable attire, etc.

Prior to the wedding, please inform the officiating Pastor of any special requests that you may have for the ceremony (readings, music, unity candle, etc.)

8. Fees and honorariums

It is customary to give honorariums to those who host or help with your wedding ceremony. This may include, but is not limited to; musicians, sound crew, and officiating pastors. If the ceremony is held at the church, it is also customary to include a gift to the church to reimburse for usage.

The church will arrange for a someone to clean the building after your wedding. Please give a gift of at least \$50 to this person.

Thank you for your attention to these details.

We hope this list will be helpful to you as you make preparations for your wedding ceremony.

**Core Creek Community Church
1110 Langhorne-Newtown Rd.
Langhorne, PA 19047
215.752.2129
office@corecreek.com**

The following addendums are for those who do not attend or are not members of Core Creek Community Church.

Marriage Application (Building Usage Addendum)

Non-Member request for building usage

Frequently, engaged couples and other churches have requested to use the facilities of Core Creek Community Church for weddings. This form has been prepared to address that request and answer some common questions.

1. Does Core Creek Community Church allow non-members or other churches to use its facilities for weddings?

Yes, under certain well-defined circumstances. It is our desire to assist others who are pursuing Christian marriage, but we want to avoid allowing our building to become merely a “wedding chapel” as we do not believe that would be honoring to the God-ordained institution of marriage.

2. Under what circumstances will Core Creek Community Church allow non-members or other churches to use its facilities?

** The couple requesting to be married must ...*

- a. Be in agreement with our doctrines concerning marriage
- b. Be regularly attending worship services at their church
- c. Submit a signed copy of the *Marriage Application*
- d. Submit a signed copy of the *Building Usage Addendum*
- e. Submit a signed copy of the *Officiating Pastor's Addendum*

3. What are the cost and deposit details?

Facility usage	\$250.00
Cleaning	\$50.00
Damage Deposit	\$500.00

Checks should be made payable to **Core Creek Community Church**. The Damage Deposit will be returned within 14 days provided that the property is not damaged. If church property has been damaged, the remainder of the Damage Deposit will be returned, minus the cost of repairs. If the cost of repairs exceeds \$500.00, the couple that was married will be held financially responsible to reimburse the church for all costs incurred.

We agree to abide by all stipulations set forth in the Building Usage Addendum and will take full financial responsibility for any damage or misuse of the property of Core Creek Community Church as a result of our wedding.

Signed: _____ (Groom) _____ (Date) _____ (Bride) _____ (Date)

Please retain a copy of this form for your records and return a signed copy, along with your check to:

**Core Creek Community Church
1110 Langhorne-Newtown Rd.
Langhorne, PA 19047-1232**

Marriage Application (Officiating Pastor's Addendum)

Non-Member request for building usage

Please give this full addendum, including our doctrines, to the Officiating Pastor and ask him to return it to the church office.

To maintain doctrinal integrity within our church ministry, this addendum has been prepared for pastors of other churches who may be called upon to officiate at weddings held at Core Creek Community Church.

Pastors who do not agree with the doctrines of Core Creek Community Church or our position on Christian Marriage may not officiate for wedding ceremonies held at Core Creek Community Church.

1. Name: _____

2. Name, address, phone and website of church or ministry where you serve:

3. Have you read our doctrines as well as our position on Christian Marriage in their entirety? _____

4. Are you in agreement with our beliefs? _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

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215.752.2129 CoreCreek.com

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John Stange
Lead Pastor of Core Creek Community Church

Church Doctrines

DOCTRINES

We believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God (1). We believe it to be Divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit (2). We further believe that its declarations are final (3). And that it is the only true rule of faith and practice (4).

(1) I Peter 1:23; Luke 24:27,44; Deut. 8:3; I Peter 1:25.

(2) II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21.

(3) Matthew 24:34; I Peter 1:25; Psalm 119:89.

(4) Acts 17:10-12; Isaiah 40:8; Romans 10:17; I Thess. 2:13.

BIBLICAL INERRANCY

We believe that the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments are, in their original autographs, wholly and verbally given by God and are therefore free from error or fault. Furthermore, the Bible is without error in all of its teachings. This is true no less when it speaks about creation, science, geography or world history, than when it reveals the condition of man and God's plan of salvation. While the Bible is not specifically a textbook on science, history, mathematics or geography, we are convinced that whatever statements it makes within the scope of any of these subjects is without error.

This doctrine of inerrancy is verified by:

1. The character of God - Psalm 119:160; Hebrews 6:17,18.

2. The testimony of Jesus Christ - John 17:17.

3. The witness of the Apostles.

- Paul (II Timothy 3:16)

- Peter (II Peter 1:21)

4. The convictions of the Church Fathers - from Irenaeus to Augustine, Luther, Calvin, Wesley, etc.

5. The results of modern scholarship

- archaeological findings and the research done on discoveries like the Dead Sea Scrolls only confirm the position of inerrancy always held by the evangelical church.

We believe the Bible teaches the following doctrines:

THE TRIUNE GOD:

We believe that God exists in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three Persons, one God (1). We believe He is self-existent, infinite, personal, unchangeable and eternal in His being (2). He is perfect in holiness, love, justice, goodness, wisdom and truth (3). He is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent (4). He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, visible and invisible (5).

1. Matthew 28:18-20; II Cor. 13:14; Deut. 6:4; John 10:30.

2. Exodus 3:11-18; Psalm 90:1-2; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 1:12; Psalm 22:3.

3. Exodus 34:6; Deut. 32:4; Isa. 6:3; Isa. 57:15; Psalm 103:8; I Timothy 1:17; II Peter 3:9; I John 4:8-16.

4. Job 42:2; Matthew 19:26; Mark 10:27; Jer. 23:23-24; Jer. 17:19; Matthew 18:20; Matthew 28:18-20.

5. Genesis 1:1; John 1:3; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:3; II Peter 3:5-7.

THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST:

We believe in the Deity of Jesus Christ (1); in His eternity (2); in His incarnation by the virgin birth (3); thus uniting perfect man and perfect God in one body (4). We believe also in His sinless life (5); in His vicarious death (6); and bodily resurrection from the dead (7); in His ascension to the right hand of the Father (8). We further believe in His present ministry of advocacy (9); and His coming again in power and glory (10).

1. John 1:1; John 1:18; Isa. 9:6; John 5:18; John 8:58; John 6:51-52; John 17:5.

2. Micah 5:2; John 1:18; John 3:16.
3. Luke 1:35; Matt. 1:18-25; John 1:14; I Timothy 3:16; Isa. 7:14.
4. Acts 2:22; Heb. 2:14-18; I Cor. 8:6; I John 5:7; John 10:30.
5. I Peter 3:18; II Cor. 5:21; Isaiah 53:6.
6. I Peter 2:24; Rom. 5:8; Matt. 20:28; Rom. 5:6; II Cor. 5:15; I Timothy 2:6; Heb. 2:9.
7. I Cor. 15:20; Luke 24:1-7; Matt. 28:1-10; Rom. 1:4; Phil. 3:10; Rom. 8:11.
8. Heb. 1:3; Acts 1:9-10; Luke 24:51; Acts 7:56.
9. John 17; I John 2:1-2; Heb. 4:15.
10. I Thess. 4:13-18; John 14:1-6; I Cor. 15:51-58; Titus 2:13; II Peter 1:16; Acts 1:11.

THE DEITY AND PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

We believe the Holy Spirit to be the third Person of the blessed Trinity. He is eternally God (1). His office work is to reprove the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment (2). We believe the Holy Spirit to be a Person (3), Who regenerates (4), sanctifies (5), empowers (6), teaches (7), guides (8), and comforts (9). He is at work in the world as a witness to Christ (10), as the builder of the Church (11), and as the indweller of the brethren (12).

1. Matt. 28:18-20; II Cor. 13:14; John 14:26; Acts 5:3-4; I Cor. 12:8-11; Matt. 10:20; Romans 8:9; I Cor. 2:13.
2. John 16:7-11; John 15:26; Heb. 9:14.
3. Acts 13:2; John 16:13-14.
4. John 3:5; Titus 3:5.
5. I Thess. 5:23; Acts 13:2.
6. Acts 1:8; Luke 24:49.
7. John 14:26; John 15:26.
8. John 16:13; I John 2:20,24
9. John 14:16; John 14:26; John 15:26.
10. John 16:13; Acts 1:8; Matt. 3:16-17; Luke 3:22.
11. Acts 2; Matthew 16:13-18; Eph. 2:19-22.
12. Galatians 2:20; I Cor. 6:19-20.

MAN:

We believe that man was created by the direct act of God, in His image, possessing personality (1) and the right of choice. In his original state man enjoyed fellowship with God (2). We further believe that man chose not to remain in the happy state in which God created him; being tempted by Satan, he became disobedient (3), and incurred upon himself and his posterity the sentence that sin deserved (4). We further believe that man in his natural state cannot please God (5).

1. Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:7.
2. Genesis 3:9.
3. Genesis 3:1-6.
4. I Cor. 15:22; Rom. 6:23; Genesis 3:14-19; Ezekiel 18:4.
5. John 3:6; John 3:36; I John 5:12; Rom. 3:20; Rom. 8:7-8.

REDEMPTION:

We believe that God has provided redemption for all men through the death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross (1). We further believe that since man cannot save himself, God has provided the perfect offering for sin in Christ (2).

1. John 1:29,35-36; John 10:11,15; Heb. 9:28; Romans 5:8.
2. I Peter 3:18; II Cor. 5:21; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; I Peter 1:23; Luke 19:8-10.

We believe that man is justified in the sight of God by faith, and that true, genuine faith produces regeneration, also called the new birth (1).

We further believe that Godly sorrow for sin (repentance) will produce reformation of character (2).

1. Romans 3:24; Romans 5:1; John 3:3.
2. Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30; Matthew 3:8.

SANCTIFICATION:

We believe that sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart (1), setting apart or consecrating for a task (2), producing holiness in the life (3).

1. I Thess. 3:13; I Thess. 5:23; I Peter 1:2; II Thess. 2:13.
2. Acts 15:8-9; I Thess. 5:23-24.
3. John 17:17,19; Eph. 5:26; Acts 15:8-9; II Cor. 7:1.

THE SECOND COMING:

We believe that Jesus Christ will come again to the earth to reign (1). We believe that it will be pre-millennial, visible and redemptive (2). This is the great source of motivation for purification (3), and inspiration for Christian service (4).

1. Matthew 24:44; II Timothy 4:1; Acts 1:11.
2. Romans 8:18-23; I Timothy 6:14-16.
3. I John 3:1-3.
4. Romans 13:11-14.

THE JUDGMENTS:

We believe in the resurrection of the bodies of both the just and the unjust (1); the just first (2) to the seat of Christ for reward of works (3), and entrance into heaven, and the unbeliever to the Great White Throne for judgment of sin (4) and banishment from the presence of God forever (hell).

1. John 5:28-29; II Timothy 4:1.
2. Revelation 20:5-6.
3. I Cor. 3:10-15; II John 8; Rev. 3:11; James 1:12; Rev. 2:10.
4. Revelation 20:11-15.

THE CHURCH:

We believe the Church to be instituted of God (1). It is the body of which Christ is the head (2). It is composed of believers by faith in Christ as Savior (3), irrespective of race or color (4). Core Creek Community Church is a congregation of believers joined together for mutual fellowship (5), and the worship of God (6).

1. Matthew 16:13-18; Eph. 2:18-22; I Cor. 3:11.
2. Col. 1:18; I Cor. 11:3; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph 2:19-22.
3. II Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:6-8; John 3:3-5.
4. Gal. 6:14-15; Acts 10:34; Acts 15:6-11; Romans 10:13.
5. Acts 2:41-47; I John 1:7.
6. John 4:24; Phil. 3:3; I Peter 2:9.