

## Engaged – now what needs to happen to get to the Wedding Day?

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### *Congratulations on your Engagement.*

As your two lives are coming together it's a major time of change. Now you're trying to catch up with 2 lots of families & friends, dealing with different family expectations & planning for the wedding. It can take its toll & what can easily be squeezed out is your slush time together (e.g. developing your prayer & Bible reading time together & celebrating your developing relationship). So prize & protect your time together. Be careful not to spend too much energy on the wedding day - it's 'only' a church service. It's easy to go way overboard with the *wedding*, both financially & in preparation – so keep remembering that it's your *marriage* which is important - you are making life long promises to each other.

Now you're engaged there are some new things you need to get done. Hopefully the following list may assist.

### **The Checklist**

#### ***The First Things***

- ☐ Make sure both sets of Parents have met each other (that may have long happened).
- ☐ Pick a wedding date (it depends on your holidays, money, family, minister, church and reception availability) and time (a Christian wedding generally takes around an hour).
- ☐ Book the Minister & Church building (check flower arrangements, sound system & cost)
  - ☐ Arrange dates to do Marriage Preparation with the Minister (usually takes 4-6 weeks)
  - ☐ Fill in the '*Notice of Intended Marriage*' government form (the Minister will give you one; he'll need to see your birth certificate or passport at least 1 month before wedding; and return form to him)
  - ☐ Agree on Preacher for Wedding Service
- ☐ Book a Reception Venue (timing should be at least an hour and a half after the conclusion of the Wedding Service (excluding travel time).

#### ***Marriage Preparation***

Marriage Preparation involves four elements. 1. Understanding God's purpose for Marriage. 2. What you do individually and as a couple to prepare yourselves for marriage. 3. Relationship Preparation. 4. Organising the Wedding Service.

#### ***Individually and as a Couple.***

- ☐ Read some good marriage books (make a list of interesting points to share):

Suggested Topics:

  - *Relationships*
    - Married for God* – Christopher Ash, 2007
    - God, Marriage and Family – Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*. Andreas J Kostenberger (with David W. Jones), 2004. (excellent – an intelligent, clear.)
    - Love and Respect – the love she most desires, the respect he desperately needs*. Emerson Eggerichs, 2004.
    - Marriage Builder* - Lawrence Crabb, 1982
    - 5 Languages of Love* – Gary Chapman, 1995
    - Fit to be Tied, Making Marriage Last a Lifetime* – Bill & Lynne Hybels, 1991
  - *Communication*
    - You just Don't Understand: women & men in conversation* - Deborah Tennen 1990
    - Finding the Hero in your Husband* – Julianna Slattery 2001, Christian Psychologist
  - *Sex Expectations*
    - The Best Sex for Life* – Patricia Weerakoon, 2013 (Christian Sexologist)
    - One Flesh* - Amelia & Greg Clarke, 2001
    - Pure Sex* – Tony Payne & Phillip Jensen, 1998
    - A Celebration of Sex* - Douglas Rosenau, 1994 (Christian Psychologist)
    - Good Loving, Great Sex* - Rosie King, 1997 (non-Christian Sydney sex therapist, detailed but fun, informative & easy to read).

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- ☐ Go on a pre-marriage course. Trinity City runs Marriage WORKS (you will get an invite).
- ☐ Talk about your sex and contraception expectations (if going on the pill – you need to do that 3 months out)

### ***As a Couple with the Minister***

Each Minister will approach Marriage Prep differently but each will most likely seek to help you understand God's purpose for marriage, do some relationship preparation and help you put together the Wedding Service.

My suggestion over the series of meetings would be:

- To understand God purpose for marriage – work through *In the Sight of God* (4 Bible Studies by Gordon Cheng – 2006).
- To do some Relationship Prep – do *PREPARE/ENRICH* (administered on-line and then discussed with the Minister)
- Put together your Wedding Service (see below)

### ***The Detailed Things***

#### ***People***

- ☐ Invite your Bridal Party:
  - ☐ Groomsmen ? + ? + ? etc & pageboy ??
  - ☐ Bridesmaids ? + ? + ? etc & flower girl ??
- ☐ Invites (list A & list B – collate addresses; stuffing & posting about 6 weeks out. *Tip:* Work out the size of envelope you are willing to pay postage for – then work out an invite that will fit!)

#### ***Pre-Wedding Events***

- ☐ Engagement Party
- ☐ Buck's Party
- ☐ Hen's Night
- ☐ Bridal Shower

#### ***Wedding Service***

- ☐ In working out your preferred Wedding Service, your minister will inform and suggest (and sometimes instruct). It is important to understand the meaning and significance of your vows.
- ☐ Decide on
  - ☐ Bible Passage/s
  - ☐ Bible Reader/s
  - ☐ Pray-er/s
  - ☐ Usher/s
  - ☐ Musicians
  - ☐ Audio and Visual Operators
  - ☐ Witnesses (if different from Bridal Party – you need at least 2)
  - ☐ Video Recording (suggestion: TBS Productions – Tony Drexel mob: 0414 885 982 e: [tbsproductions@bigpond.com](mailto:tbsproductions@bigpond.com))
  - ☐ Photographer
- ☐ Plan the Order of Service (layout; printing, Bible passage, Version (e.g. NIV), folding – ensure Bible verse numbers are included in printout)
- ☐ Fill in necessary Forms (Stat Dec & Cert of Marriage; Church Register; Marriage Cert)
- ☐ Work out Sound & Music
  - ☐ Song/Hymn Selection
  - ☐ Music scores
  - ☐ Copyright
  - ☐ Visuals (e.g. Power point)??

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- ☐ Pre-Service Music
- ☐ Entry Music ('Processional')
- ☐ Signing-the-Registry Music
- ☐ Leaving Music ('Recessional')
- ☐ Work out Announcements (e.g. Morning tea; Reception (time, location, parking); Photos)
- ☐ Plan for:
  - ☐ Flowers
  - ☐ Specific logistics in Church
  - ☐ Wet weather plan
  - ☐ Clean Up
  - ☐ Drivers/parking
  - ☐ Gift Table (somewhere secure)
  - ☐ Gift Transport
  - ☐ Visitor's Book
  - ☐ Someone to caretake Family Home while Wedding Service is in progress(Suggestion: Mark Marno of *Bliss Events* is a good contact for all things wedding and reception e.g. chair covers, flowers, decorations etc. w: [www.blissevents.net.au](http://www.blissevents.net.au); mob: 0412 627 945; e: [info@blissevents.net.au](mailto:info@blissevents.net.au) )
- ☐ Book a rehearsal date: Wednesday/Thursday the week before – Time??
  - ☐ Inform Bridal Party, Father of the Bride, Flower Girls and Page boys of Rehearsal Date and Time (Tip: the girls may want to bring their heels – to practice walking down the aisle)
- ☐ Develop a Wedding Day Timetable (for example...)

6:00	Wakeup & Breakfast
7:00	Makeup & Hair
9:00	Dress (& Photos/video?)
9:55	Leave
10:05	Arrive at Church
10:10	Marriage Ceremony
11:00	Morning tea Reception & Photos
11:30	Speeches & Cake
11:45	Farewell
12:00	Photos
12:55	Formal Reception

### **Reception**

- ☐ Plan (small is good – the numbers may then determine your invite list)
- ☐ Formalities
  - ☐ Running Plan
  - ☐ Emcee
  - ☐ Grace
  - ☐ Speeches (NB: Organised couples will have planned their speeches earlier than the night before! Grooms – remember to thank/acknowledge your 'wife'!)
  - ☐ Toasts
  - ☐ Cutting of Cake
  - ☐ Bridal waltz Music??
- ☐ Select Menu and Book Caterers
- ☐ Book Disc Jockey/Jukebox
- ☐ Seating Plan (this normally can not be done until the week before – give this plenty of time to construct).

### **(and finally...) Payment**

- ☐ Work out who is paying for what?
  - ☐ Church
  - ☐ Organist
  - ☐ Reception
  - ☐ Dresses/Suits

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- ☐ Drinks
- ☐ Flowers
- ☐ Cars
- ☐ Cake
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

As you can see there is lots to consider! Don't let the abnormity of the task overwhelm you, rather focus on the significance of the marriage promises you are making.

In Marriage we have a close glimpse of the intimate relationship God has brought his people into through his Son Jesus Christ. As you plan, keep in mind the heavenly wedding that those who serve the Lamb have been invited too.

*7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) 9 Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God." 10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (Rev 19:7-10)*

All the best for your preparations.

In Christ



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