



VERITAS CHURCH

The Bible teaches that marriage is a solemn, binding covenant between two individuals, one man and one woman, committed to lifelong love, companionship, mutual help and worship of Jesus Christ. The Bible does not proscribe who is to conduct wedding ceremonies, how to conduct them or where the enactment of these contracts or covenants is to be held. Some couples desire the exchange of these commitments to be conducted and witnessed by an ordained minister, so *Veritas Church* has formally ordained the elders / pastors, in order to perform marriages which are recognized by other churches or government entities. Although the Bible does not give specific instructions on the matter, *Veritas Church* has adopted the following outline of conditions for any elder / pastor participating or officiating in any marriage ceremony:

- Our Scriptural convictions and wise use of time dictate that we only participate in the marriage of ***professing and practicing Christians***¹, primarily those who regularly attend *Veritas*, with some exceptions (family, relatives, longtime friends, etc.).
- Because marriage is for life and a successful Christian marriage models the relationship of Christ to His church, we will only marry a couple that has counseled with one of our pastor/elders or another competent Christian counselor. The method and duration of the counseling is flexible, but must be discussed and agreed upon before a wedding date is set. ***A minimum of six counseling sessions is required, but eight or more is to be preferred.***
- We cannot participate in a ceremony or celebration, which includes aspects of ***non-Christian religions or philosophies***, such as the reading or singing of sacred texts of other religions or humanistic prose.

With the above conditions laid out, let us say that we are honored that you would consider including us in such a momentous and joyous occasion. If we are in agreement on these basic stipulations, please contact the pastor of your choice as soon as possible, so we can move forward with your plans. If you find these conditions too strict, please forgive us – we are bound by conscience -- not self-righteousness or judgment of your religious views or lifestyle. We wish you God's best for your special day and your life together.

¹ Romans 10:9-13, Hebrews 10:23-25, 1 Peter 4:10, Romans 13:12-14 & Colossians 3:12-17

Romans 10:9-13 That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile — the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (ESV)

Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (ESV)

1 Peter 4:10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. (ESV)

Romans 13:12-14 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. (ESV)

Colossians 3:12-17 Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (ESV)