

# CedarCreek Wedding Guidelines

The Bible guides our views on all aspects of life. There are several specific areas of life that have profound influence on creating a better and more God-honoring marriage.

## #1 - Personal Commitments to Christ

Couples who are not aligned in their faith beliefs experience ongoing challenges. By God's design, a couple should be "equally yoked" (2 Corinthians 6:14-15). So:

-If both have committed their lives to Christ, great!

-If neither has committed their lives to Christ, a pastor can opt to do an "outreach" wedding.

-If one is a believer and they other is not, they should not unite in marriage

*\*If any unbeliever approaches CedarCreek in order to be married, this is a prime opportunity for sharing the gospel.*

## #2 - Sexual Behavior

The Bible guides our view on sexuality. We believe the Bible speaks to three important sexual boundaries:

1. Honor God with your body (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
2. Don't be mastered by anything (1 Corinthians 6:12)
3. Don't sexualize a relationship outside of marriage (Hebrews 13:4, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5)

Here are some practical ways these boundaries are violated in relationships. In light of God's grace and forgiveness, each of these areas provides an opportunity for a conversation about repentance and redemption. (Include scripture for each of these components?)

1. You are still married and pursuing a relationship with someone else.
  - Should restoration be pursued in the original relationship?
  - If not, should you finalize a divorce?
2. You are divorced.
  - If a divorce is finalized, are you repentant regarding your involvement in the marriage breakdown?
  - Have you forgiven your former spouse for their involvement?
  - What steps are you taking to prevent future marriage breakdown?
3. You are not married and are sexually active.
  - End your sexual intimacy until after you're married (Ephesians 5:3)
4. You are not married and living with your significant other.
  - Move apart until after you are married, since sexual temptation is very strong while you are living together. (Ephesians 5:3)
  - If you are living together and have children in your home, we may be willing to immediately marry you in a private ceremony. At a later date you could have a large ceremony with friends and family.
5. You are in or pursuing a same-sex relationship.
  - Engage in an ongoing dialogue with us about God's design for intimacy as expressed between one man and one woman within the context of marriage.