

## PASTOR ROB GINTER'S WEDDING POLICY

No decision in our lives is more important than the decision to marry. Marriage is both a civil ceremony, authorized and recognized by the state, and a spiritual union, approved and established by God. Because of the monumental nature of marriage, I take seriously the responsibility to unite a man and woman together in holy matrimony only to be parted by death. When couples ask me to marry them, they have to meet certain criteria and agree to several requirements which I have included below. If you agree to the terms bellow, email me at [iamrobginter@gmail.com](mailto:iamrobginter@gmail.com) and we can discuss the wedding further.

- 1) The bride and groom must be the opposite gender and have remained the same gender in which they were born. Scripture clearly defines marriage as between one man and one woman for one lifetime.
- 2) Both the bride and the groom must be believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who have accepted Him as Savior, submitted to baptism, and joined a local church. Furthermore, they must agree to be members of the same church after they are married.
- 3) The couple must agree to premarital counseling. This includes a biblical examination of marriage and the responsibilities of husband and wife. So much time is spent on preparing for the wedding that oftentimes preparation for the marriage is overlooked.
- 3) The marriage must be the first marriage for both the bride and the groom, unless you meet one of the following exceptions.
  - a. Your previous spouse passed away.
  - b. You are remarrying the spouse you previously divorced.
  - c. You have unequivocal evidence that your previous divorce meets one of the two biblical criteria allowed in Matthew 5:31-32 or 1 Corinthians 7:12-16 (unrepentant and repeated adultery or abandonment by an unbelieving spouse). In all honesty, I don't like being the judge of who has a scriptural divorce and who does not, but the only honest way to determine this is to speak to all parties involved, including ex-spouses.
- 4) No alcohol will be served at any wedding function, including the rehearsal dinner and the reception.
- 5) The wife agrees to take her husband's last name.
- 6) Consistent with Ephesians 5:22, the vows in the ceremony include the promise of "my love, my honor, and my submission" for the bride and the biblical admonition of spiritual servant leadership for the man.
- 7) The couple agrees to never consider divorce as an option once they are married.

- 8) The bride and groom agree to complete celibacy from this point until the wedding. If you are living together, you must confess this sin to the Lord and separate immediately. The Bible commands me not to be a partaker in the sins of others (1 Timothy 5:22), and I cannot in good conscience condone sexual immorality by ignoring it until the wedding day. Sex before marriage is just as wrong as adultery after marriage. This point is non-negotiable. I regret that I have to remind Christian couples that God commands sexual purity, but the commitment that you must make is for celibacy outside of marriage and exclusive monogamy within marriage.

If you are willing to abide by the issues I state in this letter, please feel free to make an appointment with me, so we can determine the next steps. Marriage is one of the greatest gifts from God. It is something to be honored and celebrated. It is a commitment for life. I pray that your marriage will honor our Lord in all that you do and say.

Sincerely,

Rob Ginter