



Marriage Requirements

Effective Feb 2008

What are the specific requirements to be married at All Peoples Church or by an APC pastor?

The pastors of All Peoples Church have determined the following qualifications:

1) Bride and groom must individually confess a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. All Peoples Church will not marry unbelievers, or join an unbeliever to a believer in marriage (2 *Corinthians 6:14-18*). God's Word is clear about spiritual compatibility between marriage partners.

2) Bride and groom must abstain from physical intimacy or living together. Sex is a gift from God. He is the one who created it! Therefore, we must follow God's directions alone regarding our sexuality. The Bible gives us clear instructions for sex within the parameters of the marriage relationship (*Hebrews 13:4*) God's Word also gives us clear warnings and consequences when sex is used outside of the marriage.

While many of those who come to All Peoples Church are honoring God through abstaining from sexual intimacy, there are many that do not fall into this category. Couples who are physically intimate or are living together are asked to move apart and covenant (see below) with All Peoples Church (a pastor) to abstain from their sexual relationship until their wedding day. We would like take the opportunity to encourage you to make this commitment with us, understanding that this is God's best for your marriage relationship.

Premarital Covenant

We are committed to God's ways in preparing for our marriage. We agree to abstain from sexual intimacy until we share our marriage vows together. We believe it is God's will for our life and marriage to be sanctified, to be set apart for pure and holy living.

We also understand that God does not look at our past failures. Instead, He looks at us as broken people, who He can make anew. With His forgiveness, we can start all over again. As we ask God to forgive us through Jesus, He will see us as a completely new couple.

We seek to trust God and honor Him by upholding His parameters of sexual intimacy within the context of our future marriage. We believe that with God's power, we will be able to keep this covenant and be greatly blessed by our obedience to Him.

3) Membership : Either both, or at least one (bride or groom) must be a member of APC, and have attended APC regularly for a minimum period of **6-months** after becoming a member.

4) Parental Consent : It is important that as a way of honoring our parents, that both parties (bride and groom) have the consent of their parents/legal guardian.

5) Pre-marital Counseling : All premarital couples must complete our seven-part counseling program with a designated member of our pastoral team. APC will not conduct a marriage without completion of the pre-marital counseling.

Who does the premarital counseling?

Your premarital counseling will be done with an APC pastor.

You will work with the same counselor for the full duration of your premarital counseling.



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What do we talk about at the counseling sessions?

You will discuss many subjects throughout your time together. These subjects include the covenant of marriage, marital roles and responsibilities; communication and resolving conflicts; realistic management of finances; your sexual relationship and much more! Your relationship strengths will be discussed, as well as areas that need growth.

Although the program is designed to cover certain topics, your counselor will design your time together to fit your individual needs. Homework assignments are given prior to each session to enhance your understanding (and promote discussion) of the material.

What should I expect from the premarital counseling experience?

You should expect to be challenged, strengthened, educated, and better prepared for your upcoming marriage. You will probably experience some laughs, some tears, and some pleasant surprises!

You should leave your premarital counseling with some problem areas identified, some new marital skills learned, and most importantly - a more realistic expectation of what marriage will be like!

6) Marriage Application Form

If you are considering marriage at APC, please complete and submit, either via email, mail or in person, the [APC-Marriage Application Form](#). The completed form must be submitted a minimum of **3-months** prior to your expected wedding date.

7) Miscellaneous

Banns of Marriage : Banns of Marriage will be announced only for those who satisfy points 1) to 6) above.

Membership Certificate for Marriage : Those who will be getting married at another church and who need a No-Objection or related Certificate from APC, must satisfy points 1) to 4) above.

May God richly bless you individually, and as a couple, as you embark on this exciting journey together!

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no man separate." Mark 10:7-9 (NIV)